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Asian Development Bank Meeting Continues

ROK Minister Gives Speech 5 May

SK0705035692 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD (SUPPLEMENT) in English 7 May 92 pp 1, 4

[Speech by ROK Finance Minister Yi Yong-man to the 25th Asian Development Bank annual meeting in Hong Kong on 5 May]

[Text] I am honored to address this 25th annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank on behalf of the Korean government.

It is a great pleasure to be in this beautiful city of Hong Kong which, as an international financial center, has contributed so much to the economic development of the Asia-Pacific region.

My deepest gratitude goes to the government and people of Hong Kong for their warm welcome and hospitality.

On this occasion, I would like to welcome to the bank the Republic of Nauru. Also, congratulations are due to President Tarumizu on his reappointment. I have no doubt that his outstanding leadership at the bank will continue to promote the region's economic development.

This meeting is particularly significant in that it marks the 25th anniversary of the bank. During the past quarter century, the bank's annual lending has increased by over one hundred times, while its membership has grown from 31 to 52 countries.

We are all grateful and encouraged by the important role played by the bank in the region's development.

Current World Economy

This year, we expect the world economy to recover somewhat from last year's slowdown. However, concerns remain that continuing budget deficits of advanced countries, together with the ongoing economic reforms of Central and Eastern European countries, will worsen the global shortage in financial resources.

In addition, the trend toward new protectionism and regionalism makes the external economic conditions for developing countries more unfavorable than any other time.

For the developing countries to overcome these difficulties and continue their progress towards development, the global community needs to unite in a joint-effort based on mutual trust and goodwill.

Here, the role of the world's major industrial countries is particularly important. It would not be wise that they regard the developing countries only as competitors and demand economic reform, including market liberalization, beyond their capacities.

We are all aware that premature economic liberalization of developing countries could hinder and slow down their development process.

The economic advancement of developing countries leads directly to balanced growth of the world economy and to lasting world peace.

It is with this in mind that industrialized countries should support developing countries' efforts toward gradual and progressive economic reform.

Present circumstances demand responsible, long-term oriented actions rather than the pursuit of short-term national interests.

Asia-Pacific Economy

Last year, economic growth and trade expansion in the Asia-Pacific remained higher than in other parts of the world. As such, the region continues to be seen as one with large growth potential.

Despite the overall improvement in economic performance, many developing member countries continue to face low economic growth, high price inflation, and unfavorable balance of payments. This is mainly due to weak economic structures, including the lagging development of the private sector.

To overcome these difficulties, developing member countries will need to step up their own efforts at economic stabilization and structural adjustment.

And to ensure high returns on these efforts, they would be wise to strengthen cooperation with advanced countries and make the most of the recovery in the world economy.

ADB's Policy Direction

For the past quarter century, the bank has played a key role in the economic development of the Asia-Pacific region through financial and technical assistance to developing member countries.

On behalf of the Korean government, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to the bank's management and staff for their dedicated efforts.

In turning to the bank's policy direction, first of all, I welcome the bank's emphasis on the expansion of social infrastructure, alleviation of poverty, and environmental protection.

However, the bank should closely consult with the individual recipient countries in tailoring development strategies to ensure the most efficient use of its limited resources.

To effectively meet the increasing demand for assistance among developing member countries, the bank will need to secure further resources.

In this regard, I am pleased to note that the fifth replenishment of the Asian Development Fund was successful.

I look forward to a repeat of such success in the upcoming fourth round of General Capital Increase.

However, in the process, we must take into consideration not only present subscription levels, but also changes in economic capacities of member countries.

My last item here concerns those countries within the region, including Vietnam and Mongolia, that are undertaking economic liberalization and reforms toward market economy.

As a response to this growing trend, I suggest that the bank design a comprehensive plan for assistance, including technical support.

Korean Economy

Last year, the Korean economy continued to grow at a relatively rapid pace while experiencing price instability due to overheated construction activities and sharp increases in wages and consumption.

All of these, together with the surge in imports, have brought about deficits in balance of payments.

However, in spite of these difficulties, structural reforms and economic liberalization continue to make steady progress.

Interest rate deregulation was initiated last year and Korea's stock market was opened to direct foreign investment this year.

Externally, Korea continues to carry out its due roles and responsibilities in the international community.

To this end, it is committed to assisting the economic advancement of developing countries.

The Economic Development Cooperation Fund, together with the recently established Korea International Cooperation Agency, has played an important role in furthering this effort.

It is through these that Korea is expanding its financial and technical assistance to developing countries.

Not only that, Korea substantially increased its contribution to the fifth replenishment of the ADF at the end of last year. Through close cooperation with the member countries, Korea will continue to take part in the regional effort to turn the Asia-Pacific into the core region of the world economy.

With the dissolution of the Cold War and the trend toward new protectionism and regionalism, the global economic environment is undergoing rapid and historical changes.

At a time such as this, more than ever, the bank needs to draw upon its past success in the region to help the developing member countries respond effectively.

To do this, the bank will need to formulate its assistance with a long-term perspective.

Also important to the success of these efforts will be mutual cooperation amongst the donor countries. It is true that Korea is no longer a recipient of the bank's loans.

Nonetheless, I would like to end my comments today by stressing that Korea, through closer cooperation with the bank, will continue to do its utmost for the Asia-Pacific region's economic development and a prosperous new world.

Japanese Minister Hata Speaks

OW0505132492 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] At the general assembly of the Asian Development Bank [ADB] being held in Hong Kong, Finance Minister Hata emphasized the idea that Japan will cooperate with international financial institutions, including the ADB, to extend positive aid to developing nations in Asia in the future.

In this connection, Finance Minister Hata said: Out of the 3 billion people in Asia-Pacific region, 700 million still suffer from poverty. There is a need for the ADB to vigorously provide loans and technological aid to these developing nations.

He further said that he firmly believes it is Japan's mission in the international community to provide aid to Asian countries carrying out economic reform in shifting to a market economy, including Cambodia, which is still making efforts in the unfortunate aftermath of its civil war. He thus emphasized the idea that Japan will extend positive aid to developing nations in Asia in concert with international financial institutions such as the ADB.

DPRK Hosts Trade Zone Meeting for Neighbors

SK0405084292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0814 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 4 (KCNA)—A Pyongyang international meeting on the creation of a free economic and trade zone in the Najin-Sonbong area in the northern region of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was held at the People's Palace of Culture on May 2 and 3.

Prior to the meeting, the delegates inspected the Najin-Sonbong area and Chongjin port.

It was attended by delegates of the DPRK, China, Russia, Mongolia, Japan, South Korea, the United States, Hungary and the UNDP [UN Development Program].

Taken up at the meeting were a general outline of Najin-Sonbong free economic and trade zone of the DPRK, the present conditions and prospects of Chongjin, Najin and Sonbong ports and networks of railways and motorways in the northern region of the DPRK and matters of the Northeast Asian economic sphere and the estuary of the Tumen River.

The meeting discussed a series of questions arising in developing the Najin-Sonbong area into a free economic and trade zone to be a base of trading transport and development of transit trade and processing industry.

It was stressed at the meeting that it is very beneficial to build up into a free economic and trade zone this area where such infrastructurs as railways, ports and roads are nearly up to the standard.

It was emphasized that the development of this area is of importance in accelerating the economic development of the Northeast Asian nations and in developing economic cooperation between this area and many countries of the world.

It was stated at the meeting that the capital invested in the development of this area and the profits from it would be protected by law and various privileges and conveniences including reduction of and exemption from tariffs and income taxes would be granted.

Official on Interim Accord on Global Warming

OW0705114292 Tokyo KYODO in English 0847 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] New York, May 7 KYODO—Delegates discussing a United Nations treaty on global warming appeared likely early Thursday to adopt a resolution urging nations to implement preventive measures before the treaty comes into effect.

The delegates, meeting at the U.N. Headquarters in New York, have so far agreed on most details in the draft treaty on climate change, which is to be signed at the June 3-14 U.N. Conference on the Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The resolution anticipates that the current negotiations will result in a final draft which would come into effect two or three years after all the signatories have ratified it. It aims to encourage nations to speed up the introduction of measures to prevent global warming during that time.

Several countries, including China and India, are urging caution, arguing it is not necessary to anticipate the treaty, but it appears the majority will support the resolution when it comes to a vote at the plenary session Friday.

The resolution calls on all participating countries to sign and ratify the treaty at the Rio conference or as soon as possible after the conference.

In addition, the treaty calls on them to introduce measures to prevent global warming before the treaty actually comes into force.

It also calls for parties to the treaty to contribute financially to a meeting to prepare for a first review conference after the treaty comes into effect.

Delegates were working past midnight Wednesday debating whether to replace a call in the treaty for the clear setting of emission levels of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases at 1990 levels with watered-down references to the setting of goals or guidelines.

Yuji Tanahashi, vice minister of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, told a press conference in Tokyo on Thursday that the negotiations in New York are a "starting point."

"It's of value in that there are the makings of at least a starting point for getting the U.S. to participate where it had hinted it wouldn't," Tanahashi said.

Tanahashi said an agreement which lacked the cooperation of the U.S. would be inadequate since the average U.S. citizen produces 6.5 tons of carbon dioxide compared to the average Japanese consumer who creates an annual 2.5 tons.

Japan

Envoy to U.S. Vows Efforts To Defuse Tension

OW0605232692 Tokyo KYODO in English 2307 GMT 06 May 92

[Text] Washington, May 6 KYODO—The new Japanese ambassador to the United States pledged efforts Wednesday to resolve trade issues and acknowledged that bilateral ties are gripped by serious tensions.

"No one, including myself, should underestimate the seriousness of the tensions in today's Japan-U.S. relations," Ambassador Takakazu Kuriyama told reporters.

Kuriyama decried moves in Congress to seek legislation on problems in trade with Japan, which is marked by a large surplus in Japan's favor.

The United States ran a 43.4 billion dollar deficit in trade with Japan last year, more than two-thirds of the entire U.S. deficit with the rest of the world.

"Trade problems can be resolved and must be resolved by mutual consultations and negotiations," Kuriyama said in his first news conference since arriving in Washington on March 23.

He said Japanese markets are no longer closed and the prospects for reducing the U.S. trade deficit depend to a great degree on the ability of U.S. industries to increase their competitiveness.

He also gave a piece of advice to America on how to adjust to new realities of a multipolar world in the post-cold war era. "Having won the cold war, America must now define its new global role while addressing the neglected problems at home," he said.

Kuriyama singled out the U.S. budget deficit, expected to soar to some 400 billion dollars in the current fiscal year, which ends in September, and said the massive fiscal shortfall has saddled the nation's competitiveness.

For Japan's part, Kuriyama said, the Japanese too ought to discard their century-old mentality of catching up with the industrialized nations of the West.

"Having caught up, Japan needs a new national consensus on its role on the international scene and the political and economic responsibilities that come with this new role," he said.

Kuriyama, who served as vice foreign minister before taking up his Washington assignment, pledged that he will try to be "a good communicator" as well as "a good listener" for Japan.

On a personal note, Kuriyama quipped that he has a big "private stake" in stable U.S.-Japan relations, as his sister, who is married to an American, lives in Wyoming and one of his two daughters works for an American company in New York.

NHK Survey on Okinawans' Reaction to Reversion

OW0605224192 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 6 May 92

[From "NHK News" program]

[Text] Okinawa will be faced with the 20th anniversary of its reversion to Japan on 15 May 1992. NHK's public opinion poll revealed that most Okinawan people viewed reversion as favorable because their living conditions improved over the past 20 years, but felt that nature and the warmth of interpersonal relationships were being impaired because of development.

This public opinion poll was conducted by NHK this March as a result of interviews with 900 prefectural residents over 20 years of age, with 706 replies coming from the pollees.

According to the poll, regarding Okinawa's reversion to Japan, 81.3 percent of the respondents viewed it as favorable, a large increase when compared with a survey conducted 10 years ago.

Regarding people's reflections on the past 20 years since Okinawa's reversion to Japan, there has been a steady increase in the number of people who feel stability in their livelihoods and enhancements in educational standards since reversion, with 46.3 percent of the pollees listing improvements in educational standards as one of the positive aspects, an increase of about 10 percent compared with 10 years ago; and with 35.4 percent listing livelihood affluence as a positive aspect, an increase over three times compared with 10 years ago.

Concerning negative aspects, it was pointed out that there has been a decline in the true nature of Okinawa, with 71.7 percent of the respondents viewing damage to Okinawa's nature resulting from a drastic increase in development, such as that of holiday resorts; 31.6 percent of the respondents listed loss of warmth in interpersonal relationships as a contributing factor.

On the other hand, on the issue of U.S. military bases, which account for one-fifth of Okinawa's land, 80.9 percent of the respondents advocated an all-out withdrawal or retrenchment to the same level as those on Japan's mainland, indicating an increased outcry for the return of military bases when compared with 10 years ago.

Furthermore, on the special measures taken by the nation to eliminate Okinawa's disparities with mainland Japan, 74.1 percent of the respondents expressed hope for continued and enhanced efforts in this direction.

In particular, what the people expect of the nation and the prefecture is that efforts should be exerted to prevent environmental pollution, protect nature, and perfect the medical system as indicated in the current survey, rather than on economic measures, such as unemployment and commodity prices, which were priority-ranked 10 years ago. Thus, in greeting the 20th anniversary of reversion,

the prefectural people's desires have apparently changed from economic stability to affluence in their livelihoods.

Foreign Minister on 'Fruitful Talks' in Moscow

OW0605231692 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] A top Foreign Ministry official said today that Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe will visit Russia in early August to pave the way for President Bolis Yeltsin's Tokyo visit and that Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev will pay a return visit to Japan late August or early September.

Mr. Watanabe met President Yeltsin in Moscow on 4 May and agreed to promote personnel exchanges at the foreign ministerial level to discuss the northern territories issue before Mr. Yeltsin's Tokyo tour.

In connection with this, the Foreign Ministry official said that Mr. Watanabe will again visit Moscow early August after the upper house elections and that he will also visit other former Soviet republics, such as Ukraine. He added that Mr. Kozyrev will visit Japan late August or early September.

Asked about the Foreign Ministry's plan for opening embassies in former Soviet republics in addition to Russia, the Foreign Ministry official said that the Foreign Ministry intends to ask the financial authorities to allow opening of three to four embassies in such major republics as Ukraine and Kazakhstan and let these embassies cover neighboring republics.

At today's session of the lower house Foreign Affairs Committee, Foreign Minister Watanabe stressed that he had had fruitful talks with Mr. Yeltsin on the territorial issue, saying that the talks will become the foundation of territorial negotistions until the Yeltsin visit.

Referring to President Yeltsin's commitment to withdraw all troops except for border patrols from the northern territories, Mr. Watanabe said that the border patrol would have the minimum strength of a few thousand men.

Tokyo Urged To Take 'Flexible Stand' on Dispute

OW0705030792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0245 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 7 KYODO—The planned visit to Japan by Russian President Boris Yeltsin in mid-September should pave the way for a settlement of a decades-old bilateral territorial dispute, Japanese newspapers said Thursday.

The papers, however, urged the Japanese not to place too much hope on the visit.

The mass-circulated ASAHI SHIMBUN said in its editorial that there should be some headway over the return of four Russian-held islands off Hokkaido now that Yeltsin's visit is set for September 13-15.

While noting that negotiations on the territorial dispute will be a central theme when Yeltsin visits Japan, the daily cautioned against holding illusions of an abrupt breakthrough in the dispute.

During his talks with Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe in Moscow earlier this week, Yeltsin expressed his desire to improve bilateral ties, but failed to make any new concessions on the territorial issue.

The Russian president, however, pledged to accelerate the pace of his gradual five-stage program for the settlement of the dispute by shortly beginning to withdraw troops from the islands, which the former Soviet Union seized at the end of World War II.

Yeltsin's program, proposed in January 1990, comprises recognition that a territorial problem exists between Japan and Russia, conversion of the islands into a free trade zone, demilitarization, and an overall solution, including joint control or return of the islands in the future.

He told Watanabe the first two stages are completed and that the troops, except for border guards, will be removed in a year or two to complete the demilitarization phase.

The YOMIURI SHIMBUN, a daily with the largest circulation in Japan, said in an editorial, "Japan never agreed to Yeltsin's proposal to establish a free trade zone, and we cannot accept his contention that the first two stages have been completed."

But it hailed Yeltsin's promise to withdraw Russian military forces from the northern territories, as the islands are called in Japan, as "a step forward from former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's pledge to 'reduce' the number."

The NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN, a major economic daily, said Yeltsin did not make any direct reference to the return of the islands, so it is impossible to say Watanabe's talks with him achieved any progress.

The MAINICHI SHIMBUN, in this context, called for Japan to adopt a flexible stand to tackle the territorial issue.

Although the dispute should be settled on the basis of "law and justice" as Yeltsin himself stated, Japan will have to review its foreign policy of linking political and economic issues within the framework of extending financial support to Russia by major industrial nations, the paper said.

It also urged laying the groundwork for the return of the four islands to gain the support of the Russian public for the transfer of administration of the islands to Japan.

Visa-free visits by former and current residents of the islands will help make the Russian people understand the importance of the issue, the newspaper said.

Russian Fighter Said To Have Violated Airspace

OW0705111692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1109 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 7 KYODO—A Russian fighter plane Thursday violated Japanese airspace off the northern island of Hokkaido, Foreign Ministry officials said Thursday, quoting a Defense Agency report.

The officials said a Russian diplomat was summoned to the ministry shortly after the afternoon incident to receive an official protest.

The diplomat was quoted as promising to convey the Japanese protest to Moscow.

The alleged incident follows a violation of Japanese airspace by a Russian fighter last month. Russian officials then acknowledged the incident and apologized for what they said was an unintended overflight.

Diet Committees Agree on Wan Li Visit Schedule

OW0705085792 Tokyo KYODO in English 0835 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 7 KYODO—Diet officials agreed Thursday on the schedule for Wan Li, chairman of China's National People's Congress, when he visits Japan May 25 to June 1.

Members of the committee on rules and administration from both houses decided Wan will visit Emperor Akihito on May 26 as well as meet with Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe.

Wan, who will visit Japan at the invitation of both houses, is also scheduled to meet with House of Representatives Speaker Yoshio Sakurauchi and House of Councillors President Yuji Osada the same day.

On May 27, Wan will attend a reception hosted by the private organizing committee for celebrations to mark the 20th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic ties between Japan and China.

After visits to local areas, Wan will return to China on June 1.

Miyazawa Reiterates Cautious Approach on SDF

OW0705102192 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, touching on the issue of Japan's participation in the UN Peacekeeping Operation [PKO] activities, which is currently the center of attention, reiterated that the government will exercise extreme caution by taking such actions as obtaining the approval of not only the nations where the Self-Defense Forces [SDF] will be dispatched, but also of neighboring nations. He made these remarks at the session of the Upper House Special Committee on International Cooperation for Peace held today.

Following the previous sessions before the holidays, the special committee resumed its deliberations on the PKO Bill issue beginning today. Taking the floor for questioning during the morning, Yasuko Takemura, member of the Shakaito-Goken-Kyodo [Confederation for the Defense of the Constitution affiliated with the Social Democratic Party of Japan], mentioned that among some neighboring Asian countries that were the victims of Japanese invasion in the past, there are still strong concerns over the dispatch of SDF overseas in the name of participating in PKO activities. She questioned the government's approach toward this issue.

In response, Prime Minister Miyazawa touched on the SDP's participation in the PKO activities and said: "The SDF will not be going just anywhere on its own. First of all, there must be a request from the United Nations, followed by requests from the conflicting nations concerned, plus approval from neighboring nations; and if conditions warranting Japan's presence do not add up, SDF units will not be dispatched. Even if there is a request for the dispatch, there may be cases when no units will be dispatched." He reiterated that extreme caution will be exercised concerning this issue by taking such actions as obtaining approval of not only the nations where the SDF will be dispatched, but also of neighboring nations.

Watanabe Rejects Defense Spending Cut Demand

OW0705084192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0832 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 7 KYODO—Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe on Thursday spurned an opposition legislator's demand to slash defense spending in order to finance Japanese involvement in overseas peacekeeping missions.

Watanabe was responding to a question by Yasuko Takemura of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) at a House of Councillors special committee session debating a bill that would empower the government to send troops overseas to join United Nations peacekeeping forces.

The foreign minister also defended the government's policy of holding defense spending to around 1 percent of the gross national product (GNP), saying he did not think it was large.

He said Japan possesses the defense capability commensurate with its status in the international community.

However, Watanabe said the government may put a brake on the growth of defense outlay in the future in tandem with momentum in the international community toward peace and democratization.

Also at the session, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa defended the proposed dispatch of Japan's Self-Defense Forces, saying civilians without necessary training would face greater difficulties than military personnel.

"There would be many occasions in which personnel would find peacekeeping activities hard to engage in, if such personnel had not undergone training and acted under an (appropriate) organization and command chain," he said.

Miyazawa said if untrained Japanese personnel caused annoyance to U.N. peacekeeping forces in war-torn countries, it would not be a contribution to the international community.

However, Tetsu Noda, an architect of the SDP's alternative peacekeeping proposal, criticized the government's bill as an attempt to loosely interpret Japan's war-renouncing Constitution, which bans the threat and use of force as means of settling international disputes.

The party said Japanese peacekeepers would be forced to open fire on violators of a ceasefire in breach of the Constitution.

"Japan's international contributions must not take forms that could stir up concern among neighboring Asian countries," he said.

The SDP plan calls for creating a 2,000-member organization of civilians to assist with such U.N. operations as monitoring elections and medical services.

Ship Scrapping in Other Asian Countries Studied

OW0705113892 Tokyo KYODO in English 0906 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 7 KYODO—Two Japanese industry associations will soon send a joint mission to several Asian countries to study the possibility of having old ships scrapped there, association officials said Thursday.

The Japanese Shipowners Association and the Shipbuilders Association of Japan will send the mission to Taiwan, South Korea, China, Vietnam, and other countries possibly late this month, the officials said.

The ship scrapping business is unviable in Japan, the officials said, because the cost of labor is too high.

They said the number of ship scrapping companies in the world has decreased sharply in recent years, as labor-intensive scrapping has become unprofitable.

After the middle of the 1990s, more than 20 million gross tons of ships will be ready for scrapping annually, creating an international problem, the officials said.

The industry associations recently set up a joint committee to study the issue.

Ship scrapping reached a peak in 1985 when 22.2 million gross tons of ships were dismantled.

Ship scrapping, steadily decreasing since then, fell to only 1.8 million gross tons in 1990 amid the subsequent shipping boom.

The United Nations' International Maritime Organization in March adopted a resolution limiting the use of existing ships to 25 years after July 1995 to prevent water pollution from ship accidents.

Ships more than 20 years old now account for 16 percent of all ships in the world and those more than 15 years old represent 45 percent, according to industry estimates.

The old ships include supertankers of over 200,000 gross tons built since the mid-1970s.

Ozawa Dismisses Chance of Simultaneous Elections

OW0605131092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1155 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] Hong Kong, May 6 KYODO—Ichiro Ozawa, former secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), dismissed speculation on Wednesday that Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa might call simultaneous elections of both chambers of the Diet in July.

"Judging from the current situation, I think it is unlikely that (the prime minister) will dissolve the House of Representatives and call a general election," Ozawa told a group of Japanese reporters accompanying him on his trip to Indonesia.

As for the controversial bill under parliamentary scrutiny which would empower Japan to send its troops overseas as U.N. peacekeepers, Ozawa said Miyazawa must instruct LDP executives to step up their efforts to secure Diet approval of the bill.

He said the LDP may be able to secure sufficient support for the bill from Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) to enable Japan to join U.N. peacekeeping operations (PKO).

The LDP, with 114 seats, cannot pass the bill singlehandedly in the opposition-controlled 252-seat chamber.

Komeito may retreat from its earlier tough stance on the bill, in view of a DSP compromise proposal to pass the bill in exchange for LDP consent to place certain parliamentary controls on it, Ozawa said.

The DSP has expressed its readiness to uphold the bill if the LDP accepts its proposal to subject any dispatch of Japanese peacekeepers to prior parliamentary approval.

Meanwhile, the No. 4 opposition party has been calling on other opposition parties to dispense with their unwavering dissent toward the possible dispatch of a Japanese contingent of peacekeepers.

Ozawa also blasted the No. 1 opposition Social Democratic Party (SDP) for demanding that an alternative to the bill be enacted to limit governmental authority to send Japanese peacekeepers to Cambodia alone in a bid to assist with the current round of U.N. efforts to uphold a cease-fire there.

Ozawa said the SDP proposal is "ambiguous" regarding whether it would allow Japan to send the Self-Defense Forces overseas.

The SDP has been pushing its alternative proposal to create a 2,000-member organization of civilians to be dispatched overseas to assist U.N. peacekeepers in such fields as election-monitoring and medical services.

Miyazawa on Plan for House Seat Readjustment

OW0605132192 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa again stressed today that he would disclose his own plan for a readjustment of lower-house seats at an appropriate opportunity since this is one of the hottest issues concerning political reform. He made the remarks at a meeting of leaders of the government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party [LDP].

Regarding the lower-house seat readjustment, Mr. Miyazawa has already said that the public is unlikely to support the so-called plus-four-minus-four proposal put forward by some LDP members; however, he has not yet clarified his own plan.

Prime Minister Miyazawa made the remarks because he has decided to take the initiative on the issue to demonstrate his leadership in view of LDP-opposition negotiations on political reform set to begin 8 May.

Minor Opposition Party Splits: New Party Forms

OW0705073492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0623 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Yokohama, May 7 KYODO—Ten executive members have quit the minor opposition Shinpoto (Progressive Party) and formed a new party called Shinpo Jiyu Rengo (Progressive Liberal Coalition), sources within the new party said Thursday.

The members left the Shinpoto because they were not satisfied with party leader Seiichi Tagawa's explanations on political fund problems which surfaced two years ago, the sources said.

They also said the party's candidate for the next House of Councillors election was chosen by only a small number of officials.

The Shinpoto Secretariat said there had been sufficient discussions on choosing the candidate and that it cannot stop members with dissenting opinions from leaving the party.

Tagawa is the only Shinpoto legislator in the powreful House of Representatives.

Ex-Kumamoto Governor Plans New Political Party

OW0705112192 Tokyo KYODO in English 0945 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 7 KYODO—The former governor of Kumamoto Prefecture, Morihiro Hosokawa, announced Thursday that he will establish a new political party prior to the July election for the House of Councillors.

In a Tokyo press meeting, Hosokawa said the new party tentatively will be called the Liberal Social Alliance.

Hosokawa, 54, a journalist-turned-politician, served two four-year terms as governor of Kumamoto Prefecture, starting in February 1983. Before that, he held a seat in the House of Councillors, the upper house, starting in 1973. He did not seek a third term as governor.

While Kumamoto governor he called for decentralizing government and giving more power to local autonomous bodies.

Miyazawa Says Trade Surplus Surge 'Unavoidable'

OW0705033492 Tokyo KYODO in English 0306 GMT 07 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 7 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Thursday that the upsurge of Japan's fiscal 1991 merchandise trade surplus to over 100 billion dollars could not be helped.

Responding to reporters' questions at the Diet, Miyazawa said the merchandise trade surplus for the fiscal year fell within expectations and was "unavoidable given current economic conditions."

Miyazawa, however, did not elaborate on what he meant by "current economic conditions."

The Finance Ministry reported Wednesday that Japan's merchandise trade surplus, which gauges only trade in goods, soared 62.4 percent to a record 113.44 billion dollars in fiscal 1991 which ended on March 31 this year.

Official: Surplus Surges Temporary Phenomenon

OW0705120692 Tokyo KYODO in English 1142 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Tokyo, May 7 KYODO—A senior Finance Ministry official Thursday blamed the sharp rises in Japan's fiscal 1991 current account and trade surpluses on temporary factors such as foreign exchange turmoil and decreased crude oil imports.

The official, speaking to reporters on condition of anonymity, said the increases are "not structural" and are unlikely to continue.

The Finance Ministry said in a preliminary report Wednesday that Japan's current account surplus in fiscal 1991, which ended March 31, soared to 90.08 billion dollars, the second largest on record.

Japan's trade surplus for the year rose to a record 113.44 billion dollars.

The official also said the Japanese stock market appears to have bottomed out following a long slump.

He added it is essential to promote market recovery through increased dividend payouts to shareholders and other measures.

North Korea

Foreign Ministry Reacts to Los Angeles Riots

SK0705031192 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0100 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] The DPRK Foreign Ministry spokesman on 6 May answered a question raised by a Korean Central News Agency reporter regarding the recent riots by blacks in the United States who oppose racism. His response is as follows:

According to foreign news reports, riots began on 29 April in Los Angeles by enraged blacks due to white policemen receiving a not guilty verdict on attacking a black driver. These riots spread rapidly to other U.S. cities. In this process a great tragedy took place in which many people were killed, thousands of people were injured, and there was an enormous amount of material loss.

What we must especially emphasize is that our Korean compatriots living in Los Angeles and other cities suffered the greatest human and material loss. We feel very bad about this tragedy, which our countrymen sharing the same blood, suffered. We express deep sympathy and comfort out of brotherly love to all fellow countrymen who suffered loss in this riot.

Koreans living in the United States have a just right to receive legal protection of their life and property. However, we greatly regret that Koreans in the United States are not able to receive any kind of legal protection and are subjected to this kind of tragedy. Also, we recognize that necessary measures should be taken so that they can be relieved from their loss as soon as possible and lead a safe life.

While claiming that it advocates human rights, the United States has frequently interfered in other country's internal affairs. From this fact we cannot but be surprised that a terrible bloody affair occurred which has its origin in the utmost infringement of human rights and intense racism.

This large-scale violent incident and conflict clearly showed before the world that the country that has a serious human rights problem is none other than the United States.

Before arbitrarily assessing and picking a quarrel about some other country's human rights situation, the United States must straighten out its country's human rights problem first.

U.S. Accused of 'Diverting' Riot Onto Koreans

SK0705080292 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0425 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Pyongyang May 6 (KCNA)—The Korean Committee for Supporting Overseas Compatriots issued a statement today accusing the U.S. Government authorities of inflicting gross human and material losses on Koreans by diverting the riot of black people in Los Angeles that had flared up against the whites to Korean residents, the yellow race.

The statement reads:

We compatriots in the homeland are surprised and sad to hear that Korean residents in Los Angeles, the U.S., suffered human losses and other tragic damages owing to the riot of black people in the city.

As already reported, the U.S. authorities tried four white policemen who injured a black driver by striking him with iron bars in Los Angeles in March last year and acquitted them at the end of April, which triggered off a riot of black people.

Due to this riot, 51 persons were killed, some 2,000 injured and about 10,000 arrested and the value of damages amounted to 500 million dollars in Los Angeles as of May 4. Among them, the Korean residents were reported to be biggest victims.

No small number of Koreans were killed, some 1,700 shops and business offices were burned or robbed of property. The total value of damages reaches 200 million dollars.

The black riot spread to many cities of the U.S. including New York and Koreans in the U.S. spent many days amid terrible fear and unrest.

The Korean Committee for Supporting Overseas Compatriots expresses deep regret at the fact that Koreans in the U.S. suffered human losses and other damages and extends compatriotic consolation and sympathy to the U.S.-resident Koreans who underwent tremendous disasters and misfortunes.

The black riot in the U.S. was caused by the heinous racial discrimination policy and high-handed human rights violations on the part of the U.S. Administration.

In the black riot against the white people, the Korean residents of the yellow race suffered the biggest damages because the U.S. Government authorities overlooked the riot and diverted the violence of the rioters to the Koreans.

The acts of the U.S. authorities who prevented damages of the whites and diverted them to other race more clearly show how far their racial discrimination policy has gone.

Did the Korean residents ever humiliate or insult the black people or conduct unreasonable acts which might become the target of the resistance of the black people? Never.

We Koreans, whether at home or abroad, cherish freedom and equality and social justice among all people irrespective of language and skin colour and regard it as a national virtue to respect their human rights.

The U.S. Government authorities who have consistently pursued the policy of racial discrimination are to blame for the biggest damages imposed on the Koreans in the black riot in the United States.

We strongly hold that the U.S. Administration must feel responsibility for the black riot itself and the biggest damages inflicted on the Koreans in the riot and properly apologize and compensate to the Koreans, the victims.

In face of the stark reality of human rights being ruthlessly violated in America, the U.S. authorities who are accustomed to taking issue with other countries over "human rights problem" and interfering in their internal affairs at random as if they had become "human rights judges" have no ground nor face to infringe on the sovereignty of other nations, crying for "defence of human rights."

Even the allies of the U.S. unanimously ascribe the black riot in Los Angeles to the racial discrimination policy and human rights violations by the U.S. Administration. The U.S. authorities must ponder over this fact.

It is only too natural that the Koreans in different parts of the U.S. wage a movement for urging the U.S. Administration to compensate to them for the damages.

We call on all Overseas Koreans including those in the U.S. and all compatriots in the homeland to pool their strength, fight against the U.S. Administration's racial discrimination policy and human rights violations and extensively wage the movement to force the U.S. Government authorities to make a proper compensation to the victims.

At the same time, we expect that the Korean residents in the U.S. will firmly unite and display the traits of relying on and helping one another irrespective of ideology and ideal, residence, religious belief and affiliation, so that they can heal the wounds and build a stable life as soon as possible.

The Korean Committee for Supporting Overseas Compatriots will continue to resolutely fight as ever in defence of the national rights and interests of all Overseas Koreans.

First-Day Session of 7th N-S Talks Reported

SK0705062892 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0440 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Seoul May 6 (KCNA correspondent)—The first-day session of the 7th North-South high-level talks was held today [6 May] at Silla Hotel in Seoul.

Stepping into the conference room were head of the delegation of the North side to the North-South high-level talks Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the Administration Council of the DPRK, and delegates—Vice Marshal of the Korean People's Army Kim Kwang-chin, Vice-chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland An Pyong-su who is the spokesman of the delegation, Director of the Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland Paek Nam-chun, Vice-minister of External Economic Affairs Kim Chong-u, roving ambassador of the Foreign Ministry Choe U-chin, and Major General of the Korean People's Army Kim Yon-chol. The suite of the delegation also entered the room.

Also entering the conference room were the delegates of the South side with Prime Minister Chong Won-sik as the chief delegate and the suite.

The talks were held in public.

A keynote speech was made by Premier Yon Hyong-muk, head of the delegation of the North side.

Prime Minister Chong Won-sik, chief delegate of the South side, also made a keynote speech.

Chong Won-sik said the North and the South are in the relationship of "respecting the entity" of each other, being active as "members of the international community." He argued that it is "an advance to the future" to pursue peaceful reunification while "restoring national community."

This, in fact, indicated that his speech was intended to legalize the creation of "two Koreas" and hint that national reunification desired by the whole nation is quite remote.

He contended that the performance bodies including the North-South liaison office specified in the agreement should be inaugurated before May 19, but it was not necessary to adopt forthwith the annexed agreements defining the duties of the North-South joint committees and orientation of their activities.

He proposed to deal first with questions that could be easily solved, independent of the provisions of the basic agreement.

Saying that it is necessary for both sides to have "common understanding" in implementing the North-South agreement, he distorted the three principles of national reunification the keynote of which is independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity laid down in the July 4 North-South joint statement.

Arguing that the principle of independence is "principle of solution of problems between the parties concerned of the North and the South," he said it contravenes this principle to contact some political parties, organisations or individuals, ignoring the opposite authorities. He meant in this that the authorities should monopolize the dialogue for reunification and the participation of the whole nation be ruled out.

Contending that the principle of peace is a principle of resolving national problems through dialogue and interchange, he denied that the root cause of political and military confrontation in Korea lay in the war policy pursued by outside forces.

He said the principle of great national unity is for the entire fellow countrymen to achieve unity on the basis of national reconciliation in the course of reaching reunification. And he argued that it could be achieved only when "basic human rights" and "freedom" are guaranteed while the creative will of each member of the nation and individual is respected and the plural opinions are respected.

But he kept mum about the question of destroying the legal and institutional devices actually trampling underfoot the creative will of each individual and violating the human rights.

Underlining the need of common understanding of the mode of agreement for a smooth implementation of the agreement between the sides and of practice, he proposed to begin with easy things, as it was "unrealistic" to adopt comprehensive annexed agreements for the implementation of the agreement.

He said it was contradictory to the agreement to plan to have a pan-national rally and a grand reunification festival of students in the North, South and overseas on the occasion of August 15 or to convene a political consultative conference for national reunification, thus openly revealing the scheme to bar the reunification movement, contrary to the desire of the entire fellow countrymen.

He said the "very source" of nuclear threat must be eradicated, if the North and the South were to make peace settle down in this land. But he avoided mentioning the nuclear weapons and nuclear bases in the South side's area.

In its address today, the South side repeated its old untenable assertions.

It was agreed at the talks to have a contact between delegates for the solution of the questions of working out annexed agreements, forming and operating joint committees, and installing and operating the North-South liaison office at Panmunjom. At the end of the talks, spokesman of our side An Pyong-su met reporters and answered their questions.

The talks will continue tomorrow.

Yon Hyong-muk's 6 May Keynote Speech at Talks

SK0605094092 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0400 GMT 6 May 92

[Keynote speech by Yon Hyong-muk, premier of the DPRK State Administration Council, at the first session of the seventh North-South high-level talks at the Hotel Shilla in Seoul on 6 May—recorded]

[Text] Prime Minister Chong Won-sik and members of the South side's delegation:

The sixth round of North-South high-level talks held in Pyongyang last February is a shining chapter in the history of national reunification with the effectuation of the historic documents of agreement. These documents promise a new day of reconciliation, peace, and cooperation after removing the thick and dark clouds of hostility and confrontation that have existed for a long time between the North and South.

With the sixth round of the talks as a watershed, our work is about to enter a new stage. We are now faced with the vast task of implementing the points to which we have agreed, signed, and promised before the nation.

The current seventh round of talks, the first of the talks that has been arranged in the face of such vast practical tasks, will become an important occasion for clearly showing the common will to put principles into practice at home and abroad, so that fellow countrymen realize the true value and weight of the documents of agreement.

All the fellow countrymen, hoping that the Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, and Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and South, which is supposed to create a precondition for an independent and peaceful reunification of the country, and the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula will be implemented precisely and without the slightest deviation, direct their attention to today's seventh round intended to untangle the first knot.

We should not forsake the warmth of the fellow countrymen who rejoiced so much over the successes attained at the sixth round of talks and encouraged us and who feel the weight of great expectation and interest directed at us.

Emphasizing both the particular significance of this round of talks held for the first time since the documents of agreement have been put into effect and our common responsibility that has become weightier, I hope the current round of talks will be, above all, another significant round powerfully propelling the implementation and practicing of the documents of agreement. I also hope the current round of talks will take on a new look worthy of talks that have entered a stage of practice by bringing about specific results the people in the North and South can feel are genuine.

Delegates of the South side: Two and half a months have passed since we declared the effectuation of the documents of agreement at the sixth round of talks. During this time, we have formed three subcommittees—political, military, and cooperation—and the Joint Nuclear Control Committee as envisioned in the documents of agreement and have continued serious discussions in those subcommittees. As a result of the discussions, we foresee the possibility of creating joint committees serving as the institutions in each area that will implement the agreement and of forming and operating the Panmunjom North-South liaison office in charge of liaison between the two sides.

This is a major success for us and new progress. However, in general the work of the committees is far below our expectation, and they are very slow in making progress. The two sides have not yet been able to reach an agreement on working out the annexed agreement. Because of this the committees have not yet been able to discuss the basic issues in earnest.

If this situation continues, the joint committees that are to be formed will also find it difficult to work out an annexed agreement so that they can start their own work.

It might not be meaningless if we briefly look back on the process of discussion since the sixth round of talks in order to accelerate the future work of the subcommittees and the Joint Nuclear Control Committee.

As your side knows very well, our side, proceeding from the stand to put into practice the documents of agreement fully and at an early date, put forward comprehensive drafts of annexed agreements as the basic documents capable of propelling the discussion effectively since the first meetings of the subcommittees. At the same time, we have even put forward the drafts of agreement on forming and operating the North-South joint committees in all areas as the institutions for implementing the North-South agreement and the agreement on formation and operation of the Panmunjom North- South liaison office.

In particular, we would like to see the annexed agreements put into effect at the current seventh round of talks on the understanding that the annexed agreements that regulate the substance of the joint committees be settled before the formation of the joint committee as a matter of course and have made sincere efforts toward this end. Nevertheless, our efforts have not received the response they deserve.

What we find regrettable is, above all, your side's attitude toward the annexed agreements. It was clearly stated in the agreement between our two sides on forming and operating the subcommittees to the North-South high-level talks that each subcommittee work out an annexed agreement based on measures discussed for the implementation of the North-South agreement.

Working out annexed agreements can be said to be the most important of the functions of the subcommittees, because the annexed agreements contain the most comprehensive substance for implementing the North-South agreement. Without finalizing it, the joint committees, even if they are formed, cannot be operational.

This is why we have proposed that the subcommittees assume the discussion of the annexed agreements as a priority and put forward the draft agreements as the basis for discussion.

Herein lies the reason we proposed that the annexed agreements be discussed as a priority at the subcommittees and that we have presented their drafts as the basis for discussion.

Of course, no deadline for working out the annexed agreements has been specified. However, it is evident that they will have to be signed and put into effect before 19 May, the day the joint committee is scheduled to be held, and it is better if it is done during the current seventh round of talks.

This notwithstanding, your side has not paid the attention it deserves to the important and urgent issue of annexed agreements. Your side came to the subcommittees meetings virtually empty-handed; ignored the drafts of annexed agreements we had put forward, not even regarding them as subjects for discussion; and has even delayed the discussion of the annexed agreements by arguing that no deadline had been agreed upon or that there was no need to discuss the deadline, although the deadline for working out the annexed agreement was evident.

Although your side insisted on discussion first or discussion of the subject to be discussed as the preceding stage of working out the annexed agreement, trying to separately adopt and discuss the issues that can be easily resolved in the course of discussing the drafts of the annexed agreements can only be construed as an unreasonable attempt to make the settlement of the issues more complicated and as a stall for time.

We also find regrettable your side's stand of insisting on discussing one thing first and postponing another, while being reluctant to fully discuss the ways to implement the North-South agreement and avoiding the discussion of basic issues.

Your side's opinion that the order of discussion be decided according to the importance and urgency of the issues has been an issue of contention time after time and has not yet been resolved.

To try to break such a deadlock is precisely the principle of our proposal for package agreement and simultaneous translation into action.

If we are to narrow the difference in opinion regarding the order of discussion and which to put into practice first and which later and to implement the North-South agreement, we have no choice but to follow this principle, whether we like it or not.

Of course, we expect that in this case, we can employ the method of agreement on individual cases and putting into practice individual cases when it comes to specific issues agreed upon by the two sides.

We have already agreed to reach an agreement on and carry forward the political and military affairs and cooperation and exchange issues as a package in accordance with the principle of package agreement and simultaneous translation into action. We have also agreed to reach agreement on and simultaneously carry forward the confidence-building issue and disarmament issue.

Nonetheless, your side now insists on discussing anything first and other things later according to its own interpretation of the importance and urgency of the issues. This is not a stand that will settle the issue, but an act akin to creating points of contention again.

A case in point is that your side, insisting that the Military Subcommittee should settle the issue of preventing accidental armed clashes and their escalation before anything else, suggested as a measure the single issue of opening a direct telephone between the military authorities. We cannot agree with your side's opinion.

Taking a measure in advance is more important and more urgent than doing it afterward to prevent the danger of an armed clash. At the same time, a step must be taken to stop completely dangerous large scale military exercises like Team Spirit, which are staged under many pretexts and in areas close to the Military Demarcation Line.

Thus, opinions differ about priorities. Nonetheless, ignoring essential matters, your side has selected issues relevant to your own criterion and is insisting on discussing them first. This can never be seen as an attitude for making progress in negotiation.

Now that we have signed the North-South agreement and effectuated it, instead of implementing all provisions faithfully, your side tries to choose between something hard and easy, to do certain things first and to shelve certain things, and thinks that certain things can be done and certain things cannot be done. We think this shows an extremely passive attitude toward the talks, and is intended to avoid settling the basic matters of the North-South agreement. At the same time, we think this is a manifestation of the insincere attitude toward the implementation of the North-South agreement itself.

While summing up subcommittee work, what we want to emphasize is that nuclear inspection of us was put forth as a precondition which should not by any means be raised as a problem in the subcommittees.

Frankly speaking, this was cemented as a policy in which your side's authorities—including you, Prime Minister Chong—took part in composing the document, and I was astonished when I heard the news that your side's authorities officially signed this. Also, I could not but be surprised once again that in the subcommittees your side openly expressed this position.

As your side knows very well, when we effectuated the North-South agreement and promised its implementation before the nation and world, there were by no means talks of preconditions and there could by no means be any preconditions.

However, at the threshold of discussing measures for the North- South implementation, what does precondition mean?

If nuclear inspection is a precondition to implementing the North-South agreement, the signing of the agreement should not have been carried out in the first place. We cannot understand why you are raising a completely unreasonable problem and reserving the agreement's implementation after the highest authorities ratified the agreement.

Regarding nuclear inspection, this cannot be by any means a problem.

What your side should keep in mind is that nuclear inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] is not a matter that your side should meddle in, and we are smoothly carrying out the work of accepting nuclear inspections without any problem with the IAEA.

The world well knows that we signed the nuclear safeguards accord and that the accord was ratified at the Third Session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly of the DPRK on 9 April.

If the nuclear inspection that your side talks about is the nuclear inspection problem between the North and South, then this problem is being discussed with your side at the Nuclear Control Joint Committee.

Your side knows this. Yet, how can your side unilaterally call for nuclear inspection of us at a meeting of the subcommittee, disregarding everything?

Bringing forth the nuclear inspection problem as a prerequisite for the implementation of the North-South agreement has no reasonable grounds, and talking about nuclear inspection is nothing but in a sense a dull talk.

We think it is extremely regrettable that your side has created artificial obstacles to the subcommittees' work intended to implement the North-South agreement and that your side has wasted time by raising unreasonable issues.

There can be differences in views during discussions, and more time than anticipated can be taken to arrive at compromise. This kind of problem is unavoidable to some degree and is accordingly understandable. However, raising such unjustifiable subjects as nuclear inspection as a precondition and trying to intentionally avoiding making progress in negotiation can never be allowed.

Your side must feel guilty that, because of your attitude, the subcommittees' work has been affected, though meetings have been held many times, and that the preparation of auxiliary agreements has been delayed.

Delegates of the South side: People wonder why your side is openly delaying implementation, though the sixth round of talks gave our nation a bright hope for tomorrow and though the outstanding documents of agreement have been effectuated.

When summing up the progress of the subcommittees until now, we cannot but doubt whether your side is trying to retreat from the document of agreement.

Especially, your side's hodgepodge of arbitrary explanations and unworthy theories which were expressed in the Political Subcommittee regarding the North-South agreement, are sufficient to make us have doubts.

I would like to clearly reveal that the North-South agreement which we effectuated is not an agreement in which we share the same bed but dream differently, but is a document of agreement in which the North and the South confirmed their common intention of opening the road for the nation's independent and peaceful reunification amid harmony, peace, and cooperation by liquidating the antagonism and confrontation of the past.

There is nothing different to explain here and there is nothing hidden. Also, everything is clearly stipulated. Nevertheless, running counter to the spirit of the North-South agreement, your side is trying not to recognize a series of essential problems which have already become clear but that your side is trying to avoid. We see the seriousness of the problem.

In this connection, we would like to point out first of all the issue of relations with the United States. One of the fundamentals of the North-South agreement is the spirit of national independence which means that fellow countrymen in the North and the South solve problems independently by uniting their strength and without depending on outside forces. Your side recognized this also.

Then who is the outside force which is a problem for us? As is clear to everyone, it is the only outside force, the United States, which has stationed its forces in South Korea and is interfering in its internal affairs.

Therefore, if your side treasures the spirit of national independence contained in the North-South agreement, a new turning point must be reached in relations with the United States without fail.

However, your side is saying that the U.S. forces stationed in South Korea are to deter war and that they are not an essential problem to embodying the principle of independence. Also, your side is trying to maintain the same relations with the United States as it had during the era of North-South confrontation and is trying to continue to maintain the U.S. forces. There is talk that the U.S. forces must continue to be stationed in South Korea even after the country's reunification.

War deterrence by the U.S. forces means that peace on the Korean peninsula is guaranteed by depending on U.S. forces. This means that from the inception your side is rejecting the independent and peaceful efforts of the North and the South, and this is the same as not even trying to recognize today's new reality where nonaggression between the North and the South is declared.

The spirit and principle of independence contained in the North-South agreement and in the declaration on denuclearization is a just reason to readjust relations with the United States and the withdrawal of U.S. forces from South Korea can no longer be avoided or delayed. Therefore, this is being put forth as an agenda item.

Under these conditions, even though your side cannot withdraw all U.S. forces right this minute, your side must at least show a willing attitude to do so.

If your side refuses to do this and justifies former relations with the United States through unreasonable theories, and tries to maintain them, your side will crush our trust towards your side's independence; and your side's claim of solving the problem under the principle of independence with the North and South as the main forces will be only empty talk. If this is the case, we cannot but raise the problem of whether we can have faith in your side as the counterpart in independent dialogue.

If the issue of the country's peace and reunification is to be resolved between our people, with the North and South as the main force under the true principle of independence, your side must first of all take a thoroughly independent position and under this position adjust relations with the United States. In addition, your side must make a resolute decision to withdraw U.S. forces from South Korea and must not avoid or cover up this issue.

Secondly, I would like to point out the problem of your side's National Security Law. Another basic spirit of the North- South agreement is the spirit of reconciliation and cooperation. I believe that your side's assessment of the effectuation of the North-South agreement as having greeted the era of reconciliation and cooperation proceeds from your recognition of such a spirit. The main obstacle to living up to the spirit of reconciliation and cooperation is precisely the National Security Law which, describing us as an antistate group, has completely blocked all transactions and contacts with the North.

People in the South recognize that the National Security Law is incompatible with the spirit of reconciliation and cooperation we have affirmed, and your side's authorities know it. It is only too clear that under such conditions the National Security Law, which is a legacy of the old era, cannot continue to exist.

Nevertheless, your side is trying to make the National Security Law a sacred and inviolable law, depicting the law as if it were a military agreement. We know well the meaning when your side especially stressed the need to respect the laws and the system of the other side at the Political Subcommittee.

Respecting the system of the other side and not interfering in the internal affairs of the other side is precisely an agreement that we should abide by. Therefore, no one will object to the problem of respecting the laws and the system of the other side. However, if respecting the laws and the systems is utilized as a shield to continue the National Security Law, it will be a grave mistake.

National reconciliation is our goal, and respecting the laws and the system is the concept which serves the achievement of national reconciliation. Therefore, there is no room today for a law running counter to national reconciliation to exist. Leaving the law, which denies the other side and regards it with hostility, as it is constitutes ignorance of the agreement on respecting the other side and rejection of the basic spirit of the North-South agreement on achieving reconciliation.

We think that your side should not continue to maintain the National Security Law under the excuse that the laws and the system of the other side should be respected, but should not hesitate to abolish the law, following the spirit of national reconciliation and the agreement on respecting the other side.

Thirdly, what I would like to point out is the problem of how to view the position and roles of political parties, political factions, and the people of all walks of life in solving the reunification question. We believe that all members of our nation, regardless of whether they are the authorities of the North or the South, the ruling parties, the opposition parties, the political forces within the authorized political institutions, or dissident organizations, are the main force of national reunification and that the reunification question can be solved only by the united strength and role of the nation, the master of the reunification.

However, your side, insisting on a strange theory of independence, which is one of the three principles of national reunification, is trying to conclude that the theory presupposes the recognition of representation of the other side and that so far as the representation of the other side is recognized all problems related to reunification should be discussed only by those in authority.

I will not refute such an unworthy and unreasonable theory at this meeting. However, I think it necessary to clearly point out your side's mistake in attempting to justify the so-called establishment of a unified channel for reunification dialogue under this theory and to exclude those outside the regime in solving the reunification question.

Your side should first of all correctly understand that the main force of reunification is our nation, our people. National reunification is the nationwide cause which can be solved only by the united strength and efforts of all the nation which has a vital interest in it. Even when reunification debates were regarded by the authorities as criminal, political parties, political groups, and the people from all walks of life outside the regime consistently waged the movement for reunification.

A favorable situation for reunification has been created in our country today. It can be said that the creation of such a situation is the result of the reunification movement of these independent national forces. Trying to exclude the political parties, political groups, and the people from all walks of life from reunification debates, while rejecting this stern fact, constitutes a distortion of the history of the reunification movement, a disregard of the broad popular masses, and a trampling underfoot of their due rights.

In this way, we cannot solve the reunification question in conformity with the desire and demands of the nation. Your side should also correctly recognize that the reunification question is a problem of the nation and a political problem, not an administrative problem which is dealt with by the authorities.

Considering reunification to be an administrative matter and insisting on resolving it only between the authorities can be said to be arbitrary. The reunification issue, a national and political issue, must be resolved at a political level, not an administrative level, and must be based on a consensus of all the political forces and fellow countrymen of the North and South. Trying to have a single channel [of North-South dialogue] and exclude and block various political parties, factions, and walks of life from discussions and negotiations on the reunification issue cannot win support from anyone. From this standpoint, we insist that your side not try to justify its insistence on a single channel but open ways for various political parties, factions, political forces, and people from walks of life to contribute to the noble cause of reunification in compliance with new real circumstances in which antagonism and confrontation are being replaced by reconciliation, cooperation, and exchange.

Your side is also unreasonably linking the principle of great national unity, which we have agreed on, to democracy and the human rights issue, which have nothing to do with the national issues. In this way, your side is seriously distorting the idea of great national unity. Great national unity and democracy and human rights, which your side is talking about, are different concepts. Nevertheless, your side is trying to replace the principle of great national unity with the issues of democracy and human rights. We know very well that your side is doing this to divert public attention from your confrontational and divisionist anticommunist system. Our side again stresses that for the sake of great national unity, your side must transcend differences in ideas, ideology, and system and abandon the anticommunist system, which is the legacy of the ideological confrontation.

All these facts that I have pointed out prove why your side has deliberately delayed the work of subcommittees since the sixth high-level talks and arbitrarily distorted the [North-South] agreement, and it is clear to everyone.

However, no one can deny that no matter what foundation your side may present, the agenda of the North-South agreement, which has already come into effect, includes the issues of relations with the United States, the National Security Law, a single channel, the anticommunist system, and various other serious issues that your side must resolve. Your side must not try to avoid discussing these issues and must not think that it can avoid discussing these issues by delaying the work of subcommittees. If it is to be sincere to the North-South agreement, which came into effect, and the noble national mission of the fatherland's reunification, your side must make a positive decision on these urgent issues.

Delegates from the South side: We have the important task of finding answers to disputes that came up in the subcommittee meetings after the sixth talks and of taking more positive measures to ensure that the agreements be timely implemented. The two sides still have differences in views on the issues of drafting supplementary agreements, establishing joint committees, establishing and operating a liaison office, implementing the joint denuclearization declaration, and other issues. We can say the basic mission of the current seventh talks is how to find ways to resolve these issues. Therefore, I would like to express our views on these issues.

The first is the issue of drafting supplementary agreements. As you know, Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 2 of the Agreement on the Formation and Operation of Subcommittees of the North-South High-Level Talks, which were adopted and came into effect in the sixth talks, stipulate that each subcommittee shall draft supplementary agreements based on discussions on concrete ways to implement and abide by relevant clauses in the Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, and Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and South.

What is at issue between the two sides is, first, how many supplementary agreements will be adopted. We have proposed that the Political Subcommittee, the Military Subcommittee, and the Cooperation and Exchange Subcommittee each adopt a single supplementary agreement to implement and abide by relevant clauses in the North-South agreement, and your side has proposed that the Political Subcommittee and the Military Subcommittee adopt several supplementary agreements with one for each clause and project. What the two sides must consider in handling this issue is that adopting one supplementary agreement for each sector is the basic demand of the North-South agreement.

What the North and South agreed to in connection with the drafting of supplementary agreements is drafting one for each sector, not one for each clause and project. Because we fully stressed this interpretation of clauses in subcommittee meetings, I will not reiterate it. Adopting one supplementary agreement for each sector is all the more necessary to ensure that the joint committees, which will implement these supplementary agreements, guarantee unity, correlations, and a balance among various clauses for different sectors. If a separate supplementary agreement is adopted for each clause and if supplementary agreements are handed over to the relevant joint committees at different times, it may be difficult for the joint committees to systematically and efficiently push ahead with their projects.

If one supplementary agreement is adopted for each sector, this will enable one to remove unnecessary and troublesome overlapping procedures in drafting and adopting documents, contrary to drafting several supplementary agreements with one for each clause. If, as you insist, a supplementary agreement is drafted for each clause, each supplementary agreement must include the same phrases as a preamble, general principles, and a clause on the amendment and effectuation, and it will be troublesome to sign various supplementary agreements. Therefore, we think it the most reasonable to adopt a supplementary agreement each for the Political Subcommittee and the Military Subcommittee as we have proposed.

The second point of dispute in drafting supplementary agreements is how detailed the supplementary agreements would be written. Your side says that the more detailed they are written, the better they are to ensure that they be feasible. Of course, we too are of the opinion that supplementary agreements must be feasible. It is clear that because the North-South agreement is an action program, supplementary agreements that will contain measures to implement that agreement must be feasible. However, we cannot agree to your side's view that a document's feasibility is shown by how much detail it has. Whether feasible or not, a document concerns the content of each clause, not the number of clauses. Saying that if supplementary agreements are written with more details, they will be more feasible and that the less detailed they are the less feasible they will be is a very superficial view.

In drafting supplementary agreements, we must consider the possibility that joint committees, which will be formed, can discuss detailed letters of agreement to implement those supplementary agreements. Therefore, we think that even though supplementary agreements that we will draft must be more elaborate than the North-South agreement, they cannot include technical and procedural matters that are tasks of joint committees. This is why supplementary agreements that subcommittees will draft are different from detailed letters of agreement that will be discussed in joint committees. From this perspective, we think that our proposed drafts may be sufficient in view of the elaborateness of the supplementary agreements and that it would be good to coordinate views and draft supplementary agreement based on our proposed drafts.

The next point of dispute between the two sides is the deadline for drafting supplementary agreements. We consider the deadline for drafting supplementary agreements to be within three months after the North-South agreement came into effect, just like the deadline of the formation and operation of joint committees, and your side considers it to be virtually indefinite, saying that there is no set deadline. Of course, the Agreement on the Formation and Operation of Subcommittees does not stipulate up until when supplementary agreements must be drafted. However, because this issue and the issue of the formation of joint committees cannot be separated, it was not necessary to specifically stipulate the deadline for drafting supplementary agreements.

From a common sense viewpoint, since the joint committee work is based on the supplementary agreement, it is clear that without this agreement the joint committee will have nothing to do even if it is formed. Therefore, since the joint committee should be formed within three months after the North-South agreement becomes effective even though there is no time limit separately specified for working out the agreement on the formation and operation of the joint committee, the supplementary agreement should be worked out during the same period. In this connection, we hope that the supplementary agreement will be adopted at the seventh round of talks. If this is really impossible, we think that the supplementary agreement should be worked out no later than 19 May, three months after the effectuation of the North-South agreement. We therefore urge that the discussion of issues be accelerated with this objective in mind.

Second, I would like to mention the formation of the joint committee. The pending issue is how many joint committees should be formed in the field of reconciliation. The two sides differ in their opinions on this. Our opinion is that as we agreed in the North-South agreement to operate one joint Military Committee for the implementation and observance of nonaggression, one joint Political Committee will be sufficient in the field of reconciliation. In the meantime, your side suggested, while holding the same view that one joint Military Committee will be enough in the field of nonaggression as specified in the agreement, that several joint committees can be formed in the field of reconciliation according to the clauses. From this standpoint, your side says that the joint Law Committee should be formed first followed by the formation of a joint Committee for Halting Vilification.

We think that forming more joint committees than necessary is not helpful to the implementation of the North-South agreement but rather creates confusion and complexity, hindering the work, and that this burden on its operation has many disadvantages. In particular, under the circumstances where one joint committee is formed in the military field, which is the most complicated and whose work is bulky, one joint committee can cope sufficiently in the field of reconciliation. Therefore, we deem it reasonable to form one joint Political Committee in the field of reconciliation. If the name of this joint committee is problematic, we can call it a joint Reconciliation Committee, naming it for that field.

If your side has no objections to what I have just mentioned, we foresee few problems in adjusting the contents and arranging the text of the document on the agreement on the formation and operation of joint committees. Therefore, we believe that we will be able to create all the political, military, and cooperation and exchange joint committees at the seventh round of talks.

Third, I would like to mention the issue of establishing and operating the North-South liaison office in Panmunjom. This issue is clearly specified in Article 7, Chapter 1 of the North-South agreement and in Paragraph 3, Article 2 of the agreement on the formation and operation of the subcommittees, and both sides proposed draft agreements on this issue and reached basic agreement. Therefore, we think that we can adjust the contents when we discuss the matter of working out the supplementary agreement and the matter of the formation and operation of the joint committees. The two sides still hold different views on some issues, such as the site of the liaison office, but we believe that this can be resolved without difficulty if the two sides discuss it a little more.

I hope that the issues of working out the supplementary agreement, the formation and operation of the joint committees, and establishing and operating the North-South liaison office in Panmunjom will all be resolved at the seventh round of talks, and propose that a delegates' contact for these matters be held this afternoon.

Fourth, I would like to mention the work of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee. The main point at issue in the work of the North-South Joint Nuclear Control Committee is how to work out the supplementary document for the implementation of the joint declaration on denuclearization and how to define the facilities to be inspected. Whereas our side maintains that the supplementary document for the implementation of the joint declaration on denuclearization to be adopted by the Joint Nuclear Control Committee should become an agreement covering all the contents of the joint declaration, your side maintains that this should be limited to the rules for the inspection. Whereas we maintain that the object of the inspection should include nuclear weapons and nuclear bases, your side intends to exclude them.

Your side stresses only the clause on inspection in working out a supplementary document for the implementation of the joint declaration on denuclearization and maintains that it is not necessary to stipulate measures for the implementation of Articles 1, 2, and 3 of the Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, including not testing, manufacturing, producing, receiving, possessing, storing, deploying, and using nuclear weapons, which is of fundamental significance in denuclearization. This is nothing less than refusing to denuclearize the Korean peninsula.

The purpose of the joint declaration on denuclearization is to eliminate the nuclear menace at its source. It is not merely to find out about nuclear development. Therefore, the supplementary document for the implementation of the joint declaration which should be worked out by the Joint Nuclear Control Committee should comprise the overall clauses of the joint declaration on denuclearization, in addition to the rules for inspection.

Also, the attempt to exclude nuclear weapons and nuclear bases from nuclear inspection is to deny the fundamental factor that gave rise to the present nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula and to block the way to denuclearization. This can never be tolerated.

The danger of nuclear war on the Korean peninsula comes from the U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases in South Korea. Unless this issue is solved, denuclearization of the Korean peninsula is inconceivable. Your side calls for an inspection of our nonexistent nuclear weapons development but rejects the inspection of the U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases, which are the present nuclear menace. This is unreasonable to everyone. The more your side adheres to this unjust claim, the more doubt there will be as to your side's will to implement the joint declaration on denuclearization. This will also further reveal the problem in your side's attitude toward the United States. Therefore, we stress again: U.S. nuclear weapons and nuclear bases in South Korea, all of them, should be included in the target for inspections, without fail.

This is our view of the discussion of the basic issues. South side delegates: As I noted before, the seventh round of the high- level talks, held for the first time after the adoption and effectuation of the historic North-South agreement, are very important talks that will verify before the nation the will of the two sides in connection with the implementation of the North-South agreement and will objectively appraise the practicability of the North-South agreement. Therefore, we think it necessary to take some special steps in the talks, not to mention bringing forth tangible results in the discussion of the issues connected with the implementation of the agreement, to show a new feature of the high- level talks which have entered a stage of specific practice, and to have all the fellow countrymen in the North and the South have the satisfactory first-hand feeling that the agreements between the North and the South are really put into practice.

As part of such special work, we first would like to propose that the well-known issue of Mr. Yi In-mo be resolved at an early date. Mr. Yi In-mo was taken as a prisoner of war when he came to South Korea as a war correspondent for the Korean People's Army during the war. He should have been repatriated to the northern half of the Republic long ago. However, he has not only been refused permission to return home decades after the end of the war but has been subjected to the severe hardships in prison for 24 years, which is hardly imaginable for a human being. He became crippled because of his long imprisonment, and his health is completely ruined. Aged 76, he is barely getting through the last moments of his failing life in a land far from home without anyone to turn to for help. At his home town in the northern half of the Republic, Mr. Yi In-mo's mother died several years ago without seeing the son whom she had eagerly waited to return. His loving wife, more than 60 years old, had to part from her husband when she was young and has since lived by herself. His daughter, who was born after her father became unable to return home, married and has a child. They are all anxiously and tearfully waiting for the husband and the father to return home.

As Mr. Yi In-mo and his family have recently come to know each other's whereabouts thanks to media reports, their pain in being unable to see each other even though their geographical distance is not far is even greater. Their yearning for each other is so great that it is no longer bearable for them. There are many records and stories of unhappy people and sufferers in the world, but there will be few people like Mr. Yi In-mo who has undergone such severe suffering and hardships as a hero of the times and history.

Therefore, when the story about Mr. Yi In-mo became widely known, not only our fellow countrymen but also people in various countries of different blood and color than ours have unanimously expressed deep sympathy with the trials and hardships that Mr. Yi In-mo and his family have suffered. They also have raised their voices with cries that Mr. Yi In-mo should be repatriated to his house as soon as possible to meet his family.

Mr. Yi In-mo is not simply a matter of a specific individual and a separated family: This is a most serious humanitarian matter, concerning the destiny of a man who is lonely and spending his remaining years in the worst physical and mental conditions after suffering all kinds of hardships, and concerning his family. This is also a matter of love and obligation for the blood kin and a matter of conscience.

Discussing the issue of separated families while disregarding the bitter hardships that Mr. Yi In-mo and his family are suffering and making no efforts to remove their pains cannot be considered sincere.

Repatriating Mr. Yi In-mo to his home will not benefit some and be harmful to others. This is not a matter that is difficult to resolve.

If your side repatriates Mr. Yi In-mo to his home, this will be beneficial to national reconciliation and unity. This also will positively affect the implementation of the North-South agreement. Thus, we will favorably accept this as an expression of your side's goodwill.

The repatriation of Mr. Yi In-mo should no longer be delayed, considering his age and health. Therefore, I hope that your side will use the current seventh high-level talks as an opportunity to make a decision on the repatriation of Mr. Yi In-mo and that we will reach

agreement on him at today's talks to give good news to the people at home and abroad.

In addition, I think that the issue of releasing the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, the student Yim Su-kyong, and other visitors to the North, which we have requested repeatedly, should be resolved immediately.

Thanks to the adoption of the North-South agreement, the two sides promised to reconcile, and the agreement is about to be implemented. Under these circumstances, your side has no reason and justification to detain them any longer.

I express my expectations and belief that your side will reconsider this issue and take positive steps corresponding to today's new circumstances in which reconciliation is being sought. I hope that those who have visited the North, including Rev. Mun Ik-hwan and coed Yim Su-kyong will be set free this year before 15 August.

Next, we want to present as a special project the resolution of exchanging visiting groups of old people and art troupes.

Our consistent position is to end the pain of the separated families and relatives who are living divided in the North and South. Based on this position, we have made sincere efforts to resolve this issue for a long time. However, this issue has not been resolved even though a generation has passed since the separation. This is truly sorry and regrettable.

To resolve the issue of separated families and relatives as early as possible, we have made efforts to finish discussions on supplementary agreements in Cooperation and Exchange Subcommittee meetings within the set deadline and to hand humanitarian issues over to the two sides' Red Cross Societies to take practical steps to resolve those issues. We will continue these efforts.

However, it would take time to fully resolve the issue of the separated families and relatives at the Cooperation and Exchange Subcommittee. Therefore, at a time when the North-South agreement has been adopted and is about to be implemented, in addition to this, we propose a momentous step to please all the people and end the pain of the separated families and relatives. We politely propose to your side that the two sides organize the exchange of small visiting groups, as well as art troupes, through both sides' Red Cross organizations as the nation's first gift of the agreement's implementation.

The visiting group of old people will number 100, the art troupe will number 70, the visits will take place on the 15 August anniversary of national liberation, and concrete procedural matters will be discussed and resolved by the two sides' Red Cross Societies.

Your side once proposed the exchange of visiting groups of old people, and a precedent was set in 1985 when the two sides exchanged hometown visiting groups and art troupes. Therefore, we believe that your side will readily agree to our proposal.

If agreement is reached on this issue, we think it will be good to release a joint communique that says the two sides agreed in principle to exchange art troupes and visiting groups of old people on the occasion of 15 August and to let the Red Cross organizations handle procedural matters.

Our proposal will become another clear manifestation of our firm will and positive position to sincerely implement the North-South agreement.

A warm conciliatory atmosphere will be created between the North and South if Mr. Yi In-mo is repatriated, if the detained visitors to the North are released, and if the visiting groups of old people and art troupes are exchanged. Then the North-South agreement will be better implemented under favorable circumstances, and the day of peace and peaceful reunification will be hastened.

Delegates from the South side: Our high-level talks, which opened amid the expectations and interest of the people at home and abroad, have reached seven rounds. During this period, the two sides' delegates created the historic North-South agreement and joint denuclearization declaration, which will be a milestone in peaceful reunification and which have brought truly great achievements for the fellow countrymen.

However, we should not be satisfied with this. At a time when the North-South agreement is about to be implemented, we are faced with more difficult tasks. How difficult these tasks are is shown by the results of the talks in the two and a half months since the sixth round.

It is easy to speak words but difficult to put them into practice. Moreover, the implementation of the North-South Agreement is an important task in national history for removing the misunderstanding and distrust between the North and South which have been accumulated for nearly a half century since the national division and for opening a phase for reconciliation, unity, peace, and peaceful reunification. This is also a new way to resolve all the issues one by one. Therefore, many obstacles and trials may be ahead of us.

However difficult these obstacles and trials may be, we should surely overcome them to achieve the fatherland's reunification, the nation's long-cherished desire. Therefore, we are obligated to overcome them by all means. The delegates from our two sides are tasked with this honor.

The time has come when the authorities, who have been the parties concerned to the confrontation, must fulfill their responsibility and obligation before the nation as leaders in the cause of reconciliation, cooperation, peace, and reunification.

We should not delay and avoid the implementation of the North- South agreement nor step back under any circumstances. The fatherland's reunification is a way

our nation can live and achieve prosperity and a glorious way our nation can display its glory and dignity throughout the world.

By accelerating the implementation of the North-South agreement, the two sides should make all efforts to hasten the fatherland's reunification, the nation's long-cherished desire.

I conclude my keynote speech with the expectations that the seventh high-level talks will be meaningful and will make great progress in all of the items on the agenda to glorify the first step toward implementing the North-South agreement and that they will further encourage all the fellow countrymen to cherish hopes and a conviction for reunification. Thank you.

South 'Smear Campaign' Against North Decried

SK0705070692 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0614 GMT 7 May 92

["What Does Smear Campaign Aim At?"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang May 7 (KCNA)—Papers here today carry a commentary by the press corps to the 7th North-South high-level talks on the hysteric smear campaign of the subsidized papers of South Korea against the North.

Some South Korean newspapers including SEOUL SINMUN, SEGYE ILBO, KYONGHYANG SINMUN and TONG-A ILBO slandered our socialist system centred on the masses and took issue with the "human rights situation" in the North under the eye of the North side's delegation staying in Seoul to participate in the talks.

This is a flagrant violation of the basic spirit of the North-South agreement and a rude act devoid of elementary ethics and morality, stresses NODONG SINMUN.

The news analyst says:

Judging from the similarity of the tones of the false propaganda there is no doubt that it is not a "brainchild" of some hack journalists but a behind-the-scene work of those who dislike national reconciliation, unity and reunification.

It is South Korea that has a social system deserving denunciation and serious human rights problems, a land where a vicious military fascist rule has been established under the domination of outside forces. At this very moment, people of various strata are fighting for national independence and human rights, the withdrawal of U.S. troops and the abolition of the "National Security Law".

Nevertheless, the fact, the South Korean authorities instigated "government"-subsidized papers to launch a smear campaign against the North. This is a deliberate act to provoke the North, incite the feelings of confrontation and lay obstacles to the implementation of the North-South agreement.

Even before the opening of the talks, the South side mobilized riffraffs to spread rumours that there would be "no progress" in the seventh round of talks and that the situation demands "a recess of the talks between premiers". This also reveals the sinister intention to reduce the North-South agreement to a mere scrap of paper.

The South side must abandon the anachronistic, outdated idea of seeking confrontation with fellow countrymen in collusion with outside forces, respect the basic spirit of the North-South agreement and sincerely approach the current talks for promoting the implementation of the agreement.

MINJU CHOSON demands that the South side immediately stop the despicable smear campaign, clearly mindful that it can get nothing from the anti-communist smear campaign.

CIS Military Delegation Head's Letter Received

SK0705004392 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 2 May 92

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Workers Party of Korea [WPK] Central Committee and DPRK president, received a congratulatory letter on being awarded the title of DPRK generalissimo from Marshal Kulikov, head of the military delegation of the general headquarters of the CIS Joint Armed Forces, who had earlier visited our country.

The letter is as follows:

To the respected Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the WPK Central Committee, the DPRK president, and the DPRK generalissimo:

On behalf of Boris Yeltsin, Russian Federation president; Yevgeniy Shaposhnikov, commander in chief of the CIS Joint Armed Forces and Air Force marshal; the general headquarters of the CIS Joint Armed Forces and soldiers; all the Russian people; and myself, I truly congratulate you on being awarded the military title of DPRK generalissimo.

Already in 1932, you organized the first armed rank consisting of Korean revolutionaries. This armed rank honorably overcame the arduous trials of the anti-Japanese guerrilla war, and in the joint struggle with the soldiers of the Red Army opposing the Japanese occupiers it developed into a strong armed force which can prevent any aggression.

Koreans highly respect you who manifested the wisdom as military commander during the 1950 to 1953 Fatherland Liberation War. The Armed Forces which you led during this period successfully defeated the enemy's invasion.

Even amid the difficult circumstances after the war, when standing face to face with the U.S. imperialists and its allies, you prevented a new armed conflict on the Korean peninsula, thus showing the wisdom of a military commander and insight of a politician.

Comrade Generalissimo of the DPRK,

On the occasion of this significant event, I congratulate you and truly hope for your long life and continued success in the responsible activity for peace and prosperity of the Korean people.

[Signed] Marshal Kulikov, head of the military delegation of the general headquarters of the CIS Joint Armed Forces

[Dated] 24 April 1992, Pyongyang

Correction to Spokesman on Report to IAEA

SK0705000192

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Ministry Spokesman Discusses Report to IAEA," published in the 6 May East Asia DAILY REPORT, pages 8-9: Page nine, first column, from end of third full paragraph, make read: ...is gradually taking.

Despite this, even at a time when our nuclear issue is being resolved smoothly and the prospect of its resolution has become clear, some quarters in the U.S. do not hesitate to go so far as to commit the provocative act of doubting us.

The U.S. Administration... (supplying omitted paragraph)

South Korea

Seoul To Provide Aid to Koreans in Los Angeles

SK0705020692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0144 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Los Angeles, May 6 (YONHAP) - The leader of a South Korean government delegation, here on a mission to look into riot damage sustained by the Korean community, said Wednesday his government would provide support for riot victims within the framework of the U.S. Government's blueprint for rehabilitation.

Assistant Foreign Minister Ho Sung, making the remarks in the Korean consulate-general, pointed out that some quarters of the U.S. leadership viewed Seoul's efforts to provide support for Korean-American victims as "interference in internal affairs."

"Some U.S. Government officials have voiced uncomfortable feelings about our government's dispatch to Los Angeles of a fact-finding mission," he told Korean reporters.

Bad feelings may also have been engendered by a stream of Korean politicians visiting Los Angeles to see the destruction first hand and console the Korean community, Korean sources said.

One Korean was killed and 46 injured in the rioting that engulfed Koreatown last week. Radio Korea estimates put the damage to the Korean community in Los Angeles at 336 million U.S. dollars.

Since Korean-Americans here were Americans in strict legal terms, he said, Korean Government support would be feasible within the order of U.S. law after Washington's support measures had taken shape.

However, for those in need of an urgent assistance, Ho said, the Korean Government was studying various ways to reach them as soon as possible.

First Day of North-South Talks Reported

SK0705005792 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 7 May 92 p 2

[Text] Yi Tong-pok, spokesman of the South Korean delegation to the inter-Korean premiers' talks, yesterday hinted at a compromise between proposals put forth by South and North Korea for an exchange of people and artistic troupes on the occasion of National Liberation Day on Aug. 15, although he said the proposals by both sides are different in nature.

"We suggested an exchange of visits in order to enhance national identity, marking the first National Liberation Day to be celebrated after the signing of the South-North Basic Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, Cooperation and Exchanges. But the North proposed the exchange as part of a program helping senior citizens meet with their family members in the other part of the divided nation," he told a news conference after the first round of premiers' talks.

However, he added, "We will try to narrow the gap between our positions in behind-the-scenes contacts of representatives of both sides this afternoon."

Yi revealed that two delegates from each side will focus their discussions on the formation of three different joint committees, the establishment of liaison office and the exchange of group visits.

North Korean Prime Minister Yon Hyong-muk did not place any preconditions on the exchange program in his keynote speech for the North's proposal for the exchanges of visits by 100 dispersed family members plus 70 art performers.

South Korean Prime Minister Chong Won-sik, on the other hand, suggested the exchange of visits by 300 separated family members, politicians, spokesmen, scholars and students.

As to the North Korean argument against the stationing of U.S. troops in South Korea while advocating self-reliance, spokesman Yi said North Korea has a wrong viewpoint that South Korea is a colony of the United States because of the presence of U.S. troops.

He said U.S. troops are stationed in several European nations as part of NATO forces.

Daewoo Applies To Allow N-S Trade Contacts

SK0505102692 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 2 May 92 p 7

[Text] It was learned that while a Daewoo Group survey team's planned visit to the North to promote a joint venture industrial estate project in Nampo is being delayed because of issues between North Korea and South Korea, including the nuclear issue, Daewoo Group Chairman Kim U-chung recently applied to the government to allow North Korean and South Korean residents to make contact in a third country for a one-year period to promote direct trade with North Korea.

A government member concerned revealed on 1 May: In the name of Chairman Kim U-chung and others, Daewoo Group applied for approval to allow South Korean businessmen to reside in Beijing, China, for one-year periods to contact North Korean businessmen. He also said: Because Daewoo's application for resident contact is for trade, not for investment, the government plans to approve the contacts.

In the meantime, it was learned that in addition to Daewoo Group, some business conglomerates, including Lucky-Goldstar Group, recently applied to the authorities concerned for approval to allow South Korean residents in third countries to contact North Korean residents to promote direct trade between North and South Korea.

No Tae-u Meets Russian Deputy Prime Minister

SK0705043192 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 7 May 92 p 2

[Text] President No Tae-u said yesterday that economic cooperation between South Korea and Russia should focus on long-term programs, such as expansion of investment, rather than simple financial support.

In a meeting with Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin at Chongwadae, No said that many Korean enterprises are interested in increasing investment in the Far East region of the Commonwealth of Independent States, geographically close to Korea.

The President told Shokhin that he is "satisfied with the steady progress in relations between Korea and Russia in all fields, including politics, diplomacy and economics."

Evaluating the fact that President Boris Yeltsin is positively pushing through reform policies, No said that he was "impressed by Russia's efforts to have democracy and a market economy take root despite the difficult situation."

No also said he expects that Shokhin's visit this time would become a turning point to further enhance economic cooperation between the two countries.

Shokhin came to Seoul Tuesday for a three-day visit after stopping in China. He will leave here today after visiting major industrial firms, such as Samsung and Daewoo.

Pak Chan-chong Declares Bid for Presidency

SK0705060792 Seoul YONHAP in English 0546 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 7 (YONHAP)—Pak Chan-chong, head of the splinter New Political Reform Party (NPRP), declared himself a candidate for president Thursday.

Pak told a news conference he made up his mind to run to resolve the "total" difficulties facing the nation and bring hope and consolation to the people.

The presidential election should be a "momentous" opportunity for the nation to rid itself of the bigotry, prejudice and cynicism that had resulted from national division and military authoritarianism, Pak said.

The election should bring concession, harmony, hope and pioneership for development, he said.

Pak, the sole lawmaker in his party, proposed a televised debate among the presidential candidates to make the election economic.

Meanwhile, Yi Ki-taek, a co-chairman of the main opposition Democratic Party, will announce his bid for the party's nomination Friday. The party's national convention is scheduled for May 25-26. Co-chairman Kim Tae-chung and Han Yong-su, a lawmaker-elect, are also candidates for the nomination.

Yi Chong-chan Lists Political, Economic Plans

SK0405052292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0452 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] Seoul, May 4 (YONHAP)—Yi Chong-chan, a candidate for the ruling Democratic Liberal Party's [DLP] presidential nominee, on Monday publicly pledged what he would do in political, economic and five other fields if he were elected president.

Declaring that the DLP's election of its presidential nominee should be open and free as advocated by President No Tae-u, Yi enunciated his "political philosophy and policies" and urged his rival, Kim Yong-sam, to do the same.

At a press conference, Yi reiterated his often stated desire to eliminate regionalism and inject new blood into the nation's politics by promoting balanced development throughout the country and by providing broader opportunities for young and able people to get into politics.

He said he would also strictly uphold the spirit of the separation of power among the three branches of the government.

Regarding economic policies, Yi said he would gradually introduce a system of using "real names" in all real estate transaction in order to discourage speculation. In addition, he would limit the government's interference in economic activities to the minimum.

Specifically, he would make banks and other financial institutions more independent, introduce free competition among them and thus make loans more readily available for enterprises, Yi said.

On educational reform, Yi said his government would emphasize the education of technological and skilled manpower, upgrade the functions of local education boards and promote close coordination between local governments and educational institutions.

Yi said he would try to relieve worsening traffic congestion by expanding subways and other mass transportation networks, invest 4 percent to 5 percent of the gross national product in the development of technology and promote unification of the country by building mutual military trust and suppressing military spending.

Burma

Khin Nyunt Views Border, Political Situation

BK0705025492 Rangoon Burma Television Network in Burmese 1330 GMT 6 May 92

[Excerpts] Major General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] and chairman of the Work Committee for Development of Border Regions and National Races [WCDBRNR], and his entourage left Yangon [Rangoon] yesterday morning in a military plane and arrived at the Sittwe Airport in Rakhine State at 0900. Maj. Gen. Khin Nyunt was accompanied by U Ohn Gyaw, foreign minister; Brigadier General Myo Thant, minister of information and culture; Lieutenant Colonel Pe Nyein, director general of the SLORC Office; responsible officials from the Office of the WCDBRNR; U San Thein, director general of the People's Police Force; and directors general and responsible officials from departments and organizations. [passage omitted]

Maj. Gen. Khin Nyunt and his entourage were given a briefing by Colonel Kyar Nyo Chit Swe, tactical commander, in the Office of the Department of Immigration and Manpower in Taungpyo Letwe village on the site for the Taungpyo Letwe reception center and the construction of related buildings, as well as preparations to systematically screen and receive those returning from the country on the other side [Bangladesh].

Departmental officials explained matters related to the construction of buildings in the reception centers, the screening and repatriation procedures, health and sanitation around the reception center, the supply of potable water, the distribution of relief goods, customs work, security for the center, information, staff welfare, and other necessary measures. The secretary-1 in response to their explanation gave necessary instructions.

Next, the secretary-1 and the ministers met with local people in a temporary pavilion. The latter made submissions about their local development projects and their needs. The secretary-1 discussed their submissions and explained the present border situation and preparations to systematically screen and receive those returning from the country on the other side in reception centers which will soon be opened.

The secretary-1 and the ministers went from Taungpyo Letwe village to the Myanmar [Burma]-Bangladesh border and inspected the area. The entourage left Taungpyo Letwe later and arrived in Ngakhu Yagyi village, Maungdaw Township, in helicopters at 1300. The secretary-1 and his entourage were welcomed on arrival by Regimental Commander Lieutenant Colonel Myint U, departmental officials, and the local people.

The secretary-1 gave necessary instructions after Lt. Col. Myint U gave a briefing at the Basic Education Middle School on preparations being made in Ngakhu Yagyi village to construct a screening and reception center for those returning from the country on the other side. The local people reported on development projects being undertaken and their needs. The secretary-1 coordinated the matters presented with departmental authorities present at the meeting.

Speaking at the meeting, Maj. Gen. Khin Nyunt said that in consideration of the existing bilateral friendship between Myanmar and Bangladesh, measures are being undertaken to receive those who have left our country for the country on the other side and he urged the local people to assist and cooperate for the speedy and successful completion of these tasks.

The secretary-1 and the entourage then proceeded to Kyikanpyin quarry operated by the Prisons Department of Maungdaw Township and inspected the operations. The secretary-1 and the ministers then proceeded from Kyikanpyin quarry to Maungdaw by helicopter. [passage omitted]

The secretary-1 and the entourage were briefed in Meiyu Hall by Major Pe San, chairman of Maungdaw Township Law and Order Restoration Council, on construction projects and related needs in the township. The secretary-1 coordinated the necessary measures with the departmental authorities.

The secretary-1 and the minsiters then held a meeting with township-level departmental authorities. Speaking at the meeting, the secretary-1 explained preparations being undertaken by Myanmar to receive those returning from the country on the other side.

The secretary-1 said politicians serving sentences after being convicted under the law are being released after having their sentences commuted in accordance with Declaration No. 11/92 of the SLORC issued on 24 April. He said the declaration further stated that talks would be held with the elected representatives and a national convention would be called to draw up a firm constitution. He said these measures are being taken in accordance with SLORC Declaration No. 1/90.

He said the military operation in the Karen State has been suspended with a view to restoring national solidarity. He said priority is being given to the three cardinal causes—prevention of disintegration of the Union; prevention of disintegration of national unity; and perpetuation of sovereignty. He said the SLORC has no military, political, or economic difficulties [akyat atei]. He said national development tasks and development projects for border regions and national races are being undertaken by standing on our own two feet with the conviction that our strength lies within the nation.

He said some politicians are drawing the wrong conclusions from those actions of the SLORC which are being undertaken with goodwill. They are spreading incorrect news and are planning to make political profit. Those who try to make political profit with their mistaken views will be solely responsible for their action.

The secretary-1 said the SLORC will continue to work toward the emergence of a firm constitution in accordance with the path of Declaration No. 1/90 and that it will never betray the interests of the nation and the national people and our three cardinal causes.

He said it is necessary for public service personnel to understand the stand and policy of the state government and discharge their duties well. He said the SLORC will continue to work according to its set target and urged public service personnel to maintain the momentum of their work.

Next, Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw explained how Myanmar is conducting its relations with neighboring countries on the basis of the five principles of peaceful coexistence. He also explained the agreements concluded during his visit to Bangladesh and the tasks to be carried out in accordance with the agreements on screening and receiving those who left Myanmar for Bangladesh.

The secretary-1 and his entourage then proceeded to Magyigyaung Reception Center in Maungdaw Township and inspected programs related to the construction of the reception center. The secretary-1 and his entourage returned by helicopter to Sittwe at 1635 and later held a meeting with senior military officials and Rakhine State departmental authorities in the Western Military Command Headquarters to coordinate measures for the reception of people from Myanmar who are now in the country on the other side.

Speaking at the meeting, the secretary-1 said the purpose of the visit to Sittwe by himself and the ministers is to meet with Rakhine State departmental authorities to coordinate measures to systematically screen and receive those who are in the country on the other side. He said he and his entourage had inspected five sites for reception centers along the border and made necessary arrangements. He said once the construction of the centers is completed, those who are now in the country on the other side will be systematically screened and received.

He said Myanmar respects and steadfastly upholds the five principles of peaceful coexistence in order not to adversely affect its friendship with neighboring countries. He said although those who fled from Myanmar have their own reasons, there was much misunderstanding toward Myanmar caused by spreading incorrect news. He said constructive agreements had been concluded following the visit to Bangladesh by a Myanmar delegation led by Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw and talks on the repatriation of those who had fled.

He said reception centers for those who fled are being constructed and that arrangements are being made to receive those who can provide official evidence of residence in Myanmar. As the repatriation process has to be carried out systematically, public service personnel are urged to regard their work as a national duty and to discharge their duties accurately and correctly according to set procedures. He then explained the current political situation in the country.

Next, Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaw explained the agreements reached between Myanmar and Bangladesh on the repatriation of those who fled to the country on the other side. [passage omitted]

The secretary-1, ministers, and their entourage left Sittwe by military plane at 0720 this morning and arrived back in Yangon at 0845.

Immigration Employees Prepare for Repatriation

BK0605145692 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] A 77-member team—including male and female employees—led by U Aung Sein, director of the Immigration and Manpower Department, left Yangon [Rangoon] by special aircraft for Sittwe [Akyab] this morning to make preparations for the systematic repatriation of those who have crossed into Bangladesh from Myanmar [Burma] in accordance with the agreement reached between the leaders of Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Five reception centers will be opened on the Myanmar side to accept those who have crossed into Bangladesh from Myanmar during May. The five centers are: Taungtuletwin, Ngakhuya, Yinbyu, Khayechaung, and Magyigwin in Maungdaw Township.

Groups of Immigration and Manpower Department employees will be sent continuously to facilitate the smooth flow of work.

Parallel Government Denies Spy Scandal in Cabinet

BK0605105192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 6 May 92 p 6

[Text] The National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma [NCGUB] yesterday strongly denied a report by AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that a spy existed in the lineup of its Cabinet members.

The statement by the parallel pro-democratic Burmese government said that it was thoroughly confused by the report claiming a senior member of its Cabinet has been suspected for some time of being a spy for SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council] and that an inquiry has been set up.

The report, which appeared in yesterday's editions of the BANGKOK POST and THE NATION, also said that the minister in question will be kept in the government but with greatly reduced influence, and that he is also suspected of trying to sabotage the NCGUB's international image by his outspoken remarks to foreign correspondents.

The statement by the NCGUB suggested that the news was either fabricated by the SLORC itself or the person who fed the information to the news agency concerned was trying to split the NCGUB and delay the achievement of democracy in Burma.

"All the above (the news reports) are unacceptable and unconcrete things," it added.

The NCGUB was set up in late 1990 at the Karen stronghold of Manerplaw on the Thai-Burmese border by members of the National League for Democracy which won a landslide victory in the national election held earlier that year but was prevented from forming a government.

SLORC Grants Amnesty To 259 Convicted Persons

BK0605160192 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] The state, in order to reward the outstanding efforts of the Yebets [convicted persons laboring in camps], who have joined hands with the defense forces and who have helped in the defense of the state in their own way, has granted amnesty to a first batch of 259 Yebets from the Yangon [Rangoon]-Mandalay highway project camps.

They were released this evening in accordance with Section 401/1 of the Criminal Procedure Code after commuting their remaining prison sentences.

Cambodia

Negative Reactions to Kompong Thom Unrest Cited

BK0605124892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1214 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] Phnom Penh, May 6 (AFP)—Khmer Rouge guerrillas battled Phnom Penh troops Wednesday in central Cambodia as Prince Norodom Sihanouk returned from Beijing to chair a pivotal meeting of the Supreme National Council (SNC).

UN sources and diplomats accused the Khmer Rouge of sparking the fighting, described by Phnom Penh Foreign Minister Hor Namhong as the worst since the arrival of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) on March 15.

"UNTAC needs to take draconian measures to stop the fighting," he told AFP. "You can't let one faction blatantly violate the cease-fire."

Phnom Penh Deputy Defense Minister Keo Kim Yan, in an account confirmed by UN sources and diplomats, said Khmer Rouge guerrillas backed by artillery had attacked six government-held villages in Kompong Thom Province since the middle of last week.

Phnom Penh sent in reinforcements as the fighting continued Wednesday in the Sen River Valley and along Route 12, key north-south supply routes for the Khmer Rouge and Phnom Penh forces, respectively.

Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan, who along with other Cambodian figures and diplomats was at the airport to welcome Prince Sihanouk, said no single faction should be blamed for the fighting.

"I asked UNTAC to avoid accusing any one party and to try and find a solution," he said.

But Prince Sihanouk, who spent 10 days in Beijing for medical checks, said he had summoned Khieu Samphan to the Royal Palace during the evening to discuss the issue of Khmer Rouge cooperation with the peace accords.

At least two Phnom Penh troops and five Khmer Rouge have been reported killed in the clashes.

UNTAC dispatched three more companies of Indonesian paratroopers to Kompong Thom on Tuesday to reinforce the three companies already there, UN military sources said.

But so far UNTAC is refusing to send its troops into combat zones until the warring sides agree to disengage.

"It is essential that UNTAC in no way becomes another faction," UNTAC spokesman Jamel Ben Yahmed said.

He said UNTAC was trying to defuse the situation through negotiations, as called for by October's Paris peace treaty.

"Although the situation is serious UNTAC views that the Paris peace agreement is still in place."

The fighting threatens to delay the implementation of phase two of the UN-sponsored cease-fire, which calls for the demobilization or cantonment of the four rival armies.

UNTAC is eager to declare by Saturday the start of the four-week run-up period to phase two, which could then begin just one week behind schedule. But an effective cease-fire must first be obtained on the ground.

During Thursday's SNC meeting, the four factions will be asked whether they are prepared to enter phase two, UN sources and diplomats said.

"It's one of the most important SNC meetings so far," said Raoul Jennar, an expert on Cambodia who serves as a consultant to non-governmental organizations.

"How soon they can start phase two will determine how thoroughly they can prepare the country before the elections," which are to be held no later than May 1993, according to the peace plan.

Khieu Samphan said his faction, officially called Democratic Kampuchea, supported an early start to the demobilization period.

"By proclaiming the start of phase two, we will help consolidate the cease-fire," he said.

The fighting some 30 kilometers (19 miles) northeast of Kompong Thom city is the third major flare-up reported in the central province since later January as Phnom Penh and Khmer Rouge forces maneuver to cut each other's supply lines.

The Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge were the most powerful of three resistance factions that have battled the Vietnamese-installed Phnom Penh Government for more than a decade.

Philippines

Security Task Force Formed To Protect Polls

HK0705052492 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 7 May 92 p 4

[By Madelynne Dominguez]

[Text] A security task force has been formed to ensure orderly and peaceful elections on May 11, according to South Capital Command (Capcom) Chief Director Marino Filart.

Filart yesterday said the task force was created in response to the Commission on Elections (Comelec) order to the Philippine National Police (PNP). The Comelec has deputized the PNP to ensure orderly and peaceful elections.

The task force will be composed of elements of the Western Police District Command (WPDC), the Southern Police District Command (SPDC), the South Capcom Field Force and the Regional Investigation Unit.

Filart said some 2,000 men who are part of the more than 100,000 law enforcers and militiamen to be deployed by PNP Chief General Cesar Nazareno during the election day, will be stationed in Metro Manila.

"They will be securing the precincts during the voting and canvassing. Aside from this, mobile vehicles will conduct their continuous patrol operations on election day," Filart said.

Most of the members of the task force will compose a stand-by contingent force while some CMT [Citizen's Military Training] cadets were ordered to guard the polling places together with the police as a precautionary measure.

Although the PNP has formed a poll security task force, Filart expects peaceful elections in his jurisdiction, particularly in Manila, Pasay, Paranaque, Makati, Muntinlupa, Las Pinas, Taguig and Pateros.

Initial intelligence reports showed that the municipality of Taguig is the only probable hot spot in his area, allegedly due to the presence of communist rebels.

Police personnel, soldiers and CMT cadets are also expected to take part in the absentee voting to be held this week so they can assume their peace-keeping missions on Monday. Absentee voting allows them to vote ahead of all other voters as directed by the Comelec.

However, conflicting reports said that some policemen, soldiers and CMT cadets have started with the absentee voting while other reports said instructions on the voting have not yet been released to these people.

Only policemen, soldiers and CMT cadets are eligible for the absentee voting.

General Assures Power Transfer Amid Coup Rumors

HK0705010192 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] General Lisandro Abadia, the Philippines Armed Forces Chief of Staff, says that no alert will be raised during the election next week. At the same time, he reminded Armed Forces troops to refrain from engaging in politics and to carry out orders from the Commission on Elections. He said that, while no red alert status would be announced during the election, some of the Army's units might be placed on alert, which would include the National Capital Regional Defense Command. Abadia gave assurances of an orderly and peaceful election and a proper transfer of power from President Aquino to the newly elected president.

Meanwhile, members of the so-called Yellow Army and the Philippine National Police [PNP] will make a move any day now to mount a coup d'etat if the election does not proceed on May 11. This was declared by Attorney Oliver Lozano, who said that the coup would be headed by two generals who would launch Operational Plan No Election and Operational Plan No Proclamation to keep President Aquino in power. Lozano said that if the election goes through there will be no proclamation of a president because widespread rioting will occur. He said the PNP and the Yellow Army would use this pretext to launch their coup.

Honasan Dismisses Rumors

HK0705050892 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 7 May 92 p 12

[Text] Top officials of the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa [Revolutionary Nationalist Alliance] (RAM) denied reports yesterday they are planning "destabilization operations during and after the May 11 elections."

In a letter to newsmen, Col. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan and Commodore Domingo Calajate said "the accusations were mere fabrications of the Ramos-Abadia-Nazareno clique to mask their own intentions and justify the presence of military troops in Metro Manila.

"This clique plans to create chaos and disorder, blame them on the New People's Army (NPA) and RAM, and then intervene in the electoral process under the guise of restoring order so that they themselves can assume power. We wish to assure our people that the RAM will never allow this clique to succeed in their plot," they said.

Ramos Tops Nationwide Public Opinion Survey

HK0705034892 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 6 May 92 pp 1, 9

[By Amado Doronila]

[Text] General Fidel Ramos has taken the lead from Mrs Miriam Defensor Santiago in the presidential race in the

latest—and final—nationwide public-opinion survey conducted by the Social Weather Station [SWS].

The survey, taken April 26 to May 6, was commissioned exclusively by the Manila Chronicle and the ABS-CBN [Anahaw Broadcasting Service-Chronicle Broadcasting Network].

The results show that Ramos scored 17.6% of 1,200 respondents polled nationwide; followd by Defensor-Santiago, 16.2%, Eduardo Cojuangco, 10.6%; and Speaker Ramon Mitra, 9.2%. The poll confirms the general perception that the four candidates are the front-runners.

The scores of the rest are: Senator Jovito Salonga, 5.3%; Mrs. Imelda Marcos, 4.3%; and Vice President Salvador Laurel, 2.2%.

Significant is the result that a week before the election, a third of the voters, 29.7%, have remained undecided.

In the last SWS survey, taken during the first week of April, Ramos and Defensor-Santiago had galloped neck-and-neck at 18% each.

In the SWS survey taken in February, Ramos polled 25% nationwide, and Defensor-Santiago, 15%. The latest poll indicates that the rise of Defensor-Santiago has been stopped by Ramos, but the contest remains very close.

In Metro Manila, the latest poll shows Defensor-Santiago ahead with 27%; followed by ramos, 13%; Cojuangco 12.3%; Salonga 10%; Marcos 6%; and Mitra 5.7%.

In the vice-president race, Senator Joseph Estrada, Cojuangco's running mate, led the pack with 18.5%. Former Chief Justice Marcelo Ferman, Mitra's running mate, is second with 13.1%. Gov Emilio Osmena, Ramos' teammate, polled 11.6%, and Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Santiago's running mate, 9.3%.

Ramos has shown even strength across the socioeconomic classes and the regions (Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao). Across the socioeconomic classes, he scored 16.6% in the ABC class (against Defenser-Santiago's 30.9%); 17.5% in the D class (against Defensor-Santiago's 15.3%); and 18.5% in the E class (against Defensor-Santiago's 12.9%).

Across the regions, outside Metro Manila, Ramos polled 19.7% in Luzon, 21.6% in the Visayas and 12.8% in Mindanao. Defensor-Santiago polled 14.9% in Luzon, 19.5% in the Visayas and 9.2% in Mindanao.

Cojuangco polled 13.1% in Luzon, 6.4% in the Visayas and 8.8% in Mindanao.

If these results are an indication, the contest has shaped up to be a three-cornered fight among Ramos, Defensor-Santiago and Cojuangco.

Mitra, tailing in a series of polls during the past six months at least, has not gained much. In Luzon, he had 10.9%; in the Visayas, 9.5%; and in Mindanao, 8.1%.

The poll shows further that Ramos had 18.6% of the urban vote and 16% of the rural vote nationwide; Defensor-Santiago, 22.1% urban and 10.4% rural vote; Cojuangco, 9% urban and 9.3% rural; and Salonga, 7.1% urban and 3.3% rural.

These figures show the strength of Ramos in the rural areas across the country.

According to age group, Defensor-Santiago topped the 18-24 age group, with 23.8%; followed by Ramos, with 18.4%; Cojuangco, 14.6%; and Mitra, 8.4%.

Among the 25-34 age group, Ramos had 17.5%; Defensor-Santiago; 16.3%; and Cojuangco and Mitra, 11.6% each.

The lead of both Ramos and Defensor-Santiago underline the emergence of the cleavage between traditional and non-traditional politics.

Both are perceived to be new entrants in politics who had not climbed through its traditional pathways.

Defensor-Santiago has virtually no political machine to speak of and Ramos has a relatively weak machine. Cojuangco and Mitra are perceived to have relatively strong machines built around the traditional basis of local party hacks or congressional supporters.

Together, Ramos and Defensor, have polled 34% of the votes nationwide, against 19.8% for the traditionals, Cojuangco and Mitra.

Nonetheless, 34% is barely four percentage points above the percentage of undecided voters (nearly 30%), which means no one has taken a commanding lead and is likely to win a majority mandate.

The poll was taken before the issue of the Batasan "raid" but after Cojuangco and Defensor-Santiago had come under intense attacks—Cojuangco for his links with the Marcos regime and with the coconut monopoly, and Defensor-Santiago for her political immaturity and her mental health. Aparently, this issue had set back the climb of Defensor-Santiago.

Ambassador to U.S. Assails Cojuangco-MNLF Pact

HK0705051192 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 7 May 92 p 9

[By Grace C. Sison]

[Text] Philippine Ambassador to Washington Emmanuel Pelaez yesterday denounced as "an act of high treason and a betrayal of the Philippine democracy" presidential aspirant Eduardo Cojuangco Jr.'s secret pact with the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF], which resulted in a "Protocol of Understanding" to implement the Tripoli Agreement.

"If this is the kind of foreign policy former ambassador Cojuangco will offer the country, then our Republic is in clear and imminent danger," said Pelaez. He said MNLF chief Nur Misuari's intent is and has always been the

dismemberment of Mindanao, Sulu, Palawan, Basilan and Tawi-Tawi from the rest of the Philippines.

Speaking before the Rotary Club of Makati-Ayala, Pelaez said the country was on the brink of war during the Marcos years and in the early months of the Aquino administration when vice-presidential candidate Aquilino Pimentel, and senatorial reelectionist Agapito "Butch" Aquino virtually agreed with Misuari to include all 24 provinces of Mindanao, Sulu, Palwan, Basilan and Tawi-Tawi, including their cities, in a Bangsa Moro autonomous government, going even beyond the scope of the Tripoli Agreement.

Worse, he added, the Tripoli Agreement included a provision for the organization of an autonomous Bangsa Moro Army that would be beyond the control and supervision of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Pelaez said that to forestall the onerous implementation of the Tripoli Agreement, President Corazon Aquino recalled him from Washington D.C.

Twice he went to Maimbung, Sulu, the heartland of rebel-held territory, to hold talks with Misuari and impress upon him the need to hold the talks within realm of the 1987 Philipine Constitution.

The talks lasted seven months. "All that is behind us, thanks to our constitutional processes and intense diplomatic efforts with the help of friends in the Organization of Islamic Countries, [OIC]" Pelaez said.

"But after having systematically plundered the coconut industry, to quote from the Supreme Court decisions penned by now Chief Justice Andres Narvasa on Oct. 2, 1989, in the case of 'Cocofed [Coconut Federation] vs. PCGG' [Presidential Commission on Good Government] Cojuangco would now concoct an insidious plan to bring our country back to the specter of dismemberment," Pelaez said.

Peleaz added that Cojuangco has to be told that an Autonomous Regional Government is now in place, as empowered by an organic act passed by the Congress of the Philippines and ratified by a plebiscite conducted in the 13 provinces and five cities of Mindanao, following the provisions for "consultations with the people" as required by the Constitution and provided in the Tripoli Agreement.

"The matter is closed. The autonomous government is in place with the blessings of the OIC.

"Cojuangco's private agreement with Nur Misuari at this point is clearly a sinister plot and is subversive of the letter and intent of the basic law of the land.

"Our territory and sovereignty are non-negotiable. Anything to the contrary is a high treason," Pelaez said.

Cojuangco, however, said he held talks with separatist groups in Mindanao to bring peace to the island. He said he intended to include other the militant groups [sentence as published].

If elected president, Cojuangco said, he will immediately hammer out a peace agreement in Mindanao based on the Constitution, a condition set forth in the Tripoli Agreement.

"It is time to stop all wars between Filipinos, to bring about unity between Muslims and Christians, between groups with diverse ideologies," he said.

"I will go to any length to bring peace among Filipinos without prejudice to fellow Filipinos," he said.

Police Chief: 'Only 12' Private Armies Remain

HK0605060692 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] Chief Superintendent Wilfredo (Reodozar), director for operations of the Philippine National Police [PNP], in an interview with DZMM Radio Patrol, said that only 12 private armies remain in the country. He also said that the police expects this number to increase as the election nears.

Most of these private armies are scattered in the different areas of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao which are at the beck and call of their warlords. Reodozar, however, assured that the movement of these private armies will be limited as the PNP increases the number of checkpoints in the region.

He said out of the 27 election-related incidents, 15 were perpetrated by the followers of several politicians, the rest were perpetrated by the New People's Army.

[Begin (Reodozar) recording] The strongest force of the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] are now in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao. The AFP chief of staff, the Commission on Elections, and the PNP leadership have given strict orders to increase the number of checkpoints in the area in order to monitor the movements of these private armies and thus prevent them from creating any trouble during the elections. [end recording]

'Scores' of Communist Rebels Killed in Albay

HK0705050792 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 7 May 92 pp 1, 7

[By Zen Ballarbare and Romy Degala]

[Text] Legazpi city—Scores of New People's Army (NPA) rebels were killed, while several others were seriously wounded during a two-hour clash with members of the Albay Philippine National Police (PNP) and in an attempt to attack the PNP assistance center of the 251st Mobile Force Company in barangay Comon in Camalig, Albay.

Superintendent Marcelo Navarro Jr., Albay PNP chief, said in his report to Director General Cesar Nazareno, PNP chief, and Superintendent Miguel Fontanilla, Recom [Regional Command] 5 chief, that 120 armed NPAs under

"Ka [Comarade] Salem" tried to attack the PNP assistance center, led by Senior Police Officer 3 Genny Egar. But Egar and his men repulsed them.

Navarro said the NPA blocking force had planted land mines intended for government reinforcements along the highway in barangay Baligang where NPAs were waiting to ambush them.

He said the rebels suffered a big setback in their plans under "Operation Summer Offensive."

Found at the scene of the clash were land mines, detonating cord, time fuse, 20 homemade explosives, Armalite rifles, empty shells, M-79 guns, and ammunition. Nobody was killed among the soldiers.

Navarro said the rebels fled with the bodies of their companions.

Oil, Import Levy Remains at Nine Percent

HK0505030392 Quezon City MALAYA in English 5 May 92 p 1

[Text] Oil and other petroleum products are not covered by the lifting of the import levy last April 30, it was learned yesterday.

Executive Order 1517 lifting the remaining 5 percent levy on imports even maintains the surcharge on oil imports at 9 percent, the rate set August last year following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

President Aquino scrapped the levy in advance of the June 30 schedule due to pressure from businessmen who felt the surcharge was partly responsible for the current slowdown in industrial production.

Still subject to the levy are crude petroleum oil, lubricating oil, fuel oils, naptha, gas oils, kerosene, motor gasoline and other petroleum products.

Based on the 1991 oil import of $1.72 billion, the government was able to collect $155 million on these products last year, roughly equivalent to P4.6 [Philippine pesos] billion at an exchange rate of P27 to $1.

It is estimated that the government lost P3 billion in revenues when it lifted the levy two months ahead of schedule.

The government is expected to earn in May and June about P400 million from the 9 percent levy on oil alone.

The government decision to maintain the levy on oil imports runs counter to World Bank and International Monetary Fund recommendations to completely lift the levy.

The levy, originally pegged at 9 percent for all products, was reduced to 5 percent in January.

Finance Secretary Jesus P. Estanislao had opposed the early lifting of the levy until after alternate sources of revenues could be found.

Central Bank Governor Jose Cuisia, however, favored the early lifting because of the levy's dampening effect on output.

Exporters had said they were the most penalized by the levy as higher prices of imported raw materials lost them their competitiveness in the export market.

The Board of Investments also reported that investors deferred importation of some $2.5 billion worth of capital equipment because of the levy.

Oil Exploration in Palawan Called Successful

HK0605025892 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 6 May 92 p 17

[Text] Shell Exploration successfully flowed oil at the Malampaya-1 well it is drilling in off-shore northwest Palawan, the Office of Energy Affairs [OEA] reported yesterday.

It said that Shell Exploration's first production test was able to flow oil from the well at a rate of 2,327 barrels of oil a day and a minimum stable rate of 755 barrels a day.

The OEA said that Shell Exploration is currently retrieving some equipment from the well for analysis.

After this, it said that the well will be shut-in for pressure build-up prior to further flow tests.

Shell Exploration finally conducted the first of a series of tests at its Malampaya well the other day after several weeks of delay.

The initial test yielded "water with oil," according to the OEA's initial bulletin on Monday.

Shell Exploration's only partner in the drilling project is Occidental Petroleum.

Yesterday's results raised hopes that Shell Exploration's drilling of the well, which started last Dec. 2 and the longest among the major explorations held in the country the past months, would yield commercial quantities of oil.

Shell Exploration's first venture was on the Camago well, also in northwest Palawan. Discovered sometime in 1990, the well yielded ample supply of natural gas.

Gas was first encountered at the Malampaya well last March 23 at a depth of 11,667 feet. Several attempts to test the well were foiled by various technical troubles.

The Malampaya well is the third and last phase of Shell Exploration's venture in the Philippines. It was earlier considered as one of the biggest oil fields in the Palawan area.

Four Independent Yugoslav Republics Recognized

LD0505153792 Zagreb Radio Croatia Network in English 1205 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] The Philippines announced today that they had recognized the independence of Croatia, Bosnia-Hercegovina, Slovenia, and Macedonia.

Thailand

Army TV Reports 'Heated' Opposition Rallies

BK0705090892 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 0812 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] While Prime Minister General Suchinda Khraprayun was giving the government policy statement aimed at eliminating difficulties suffered by the people, at the Royal Plaza and in front of the National Assembly heated rallies have been held. Speeches have been given on stages containing statements aimed at toppling the constitutional government of His Majesty the King. In addition, objects have also been hurled at the policemen who are politely carrying out their duties in those areas.

At the rally in front of the National Assembly in the past two days, many opposition party politicians have taken to the stage to deliver speeches using agitating statements to mislead innocent people. They have also used strong statements aimed at toppling the constitutional government. The rally in front of the National Assembly is seemingly getting more violent and becoming very worrisome. As a result, adverse affects may be created, threatening the lives and property of innocent people attending the rallies and any passersby.

100,000 Rally; Crowd Growing

BK0705124892 Hong Kong AFP in English 1240 GMT 7 May 92

[By Anusak Konglang]

[Excerpt] Bangkok, May 7 (AFP)—Fears of a bloody confrontation between the Thai military and anti-government demonstrators increased when the number of protestors outside parliament rose to 100,000 people early Thursday evening.

Thousands continued to pour into the area in defiance of an order announced late afternoon from the country's military chief ordering them to disperse and warning others to stay away.

Troops and armoured personel carriers, originally stationed in a nearby military base, began to take up positions nearer the rally site.

As darkness fell, a military spotter plane circled the area and dropped leaflets ordering the protesters shouting for the resignation of Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun to return to their homes.

Most of the leaflets fell in the nearby Bangkok zoo. Another spotter plane urged the demonstrators to return home with a loudspeaker. [passage omitted]

Army TV Reports Only 1,000 Ralliers

BK0605145892 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] Rallies by various groups in front of the parliament continued today, but no violent incidents were reported. Some 1,300 policemen were deployed in front of the parliament building all day. A group of about 1,000 held a demonstration. They were watched by police officials from various metropolitan police stations deployed around the parliament for law enforcement.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified police official] We have had about 1,300 policemen from the Metropolitan Police deployed to guard the area since 0500 hrs.

[Television correspondent] What plans do you have in case there is violence?

[Police official] Policemen are keeping a close watch. We are also trying to look out for any groups trying to instigate unrest in order to be able to prevent them.

[Television correspondent] Are you in coordination with the protest groups?

[Police official] That's what we have always been doing. We tried to dissuade them. We told them to remain peaceful. [end recording]

A large number of press, radio, and television correspondents was also present around the parliament covering the protest rallies.

'Tension High' as Site Blockaded

BK0705024292 Hong Kong AFP in English 0239 GMT 7 May 92

[Excerpt] Bangkok, May 7 (AFP)—Tension was running high here Thursday morning as police blocked off the site of a rally against Thailand's military-supported Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun.

Hundreds of policemen were deployed to prevent people from entering or leaving the site where Chamlong Simuang, Thailand's most popular political leader, has been fasting since Monday night to force Suchinda's resignation.

About 1,000 anti-government demonstrators had stayed overnight in front of Parliament House where a debate over Suchinda's first policy statement was to resume later in the day.

Many people, they said, were trying to join them. [passage Omitted]

Opposition Sets Resignation Deadline

BK0705003892 Bangkok THE NATION in English 7 May 92 p 1

[Excerpt] Leaders of the anti-Suchinda demonstration last night set a deadline of noon [0500 GMT] today for Prime Minister Gen Suchinda Khraprayun to say he will resign, while the opposition parties are to offer him a "graceful exit" this morning.

Without indicating what they would do if Suchinda ignores them, the 12 representatives of 10 organizations delivered the ultimatum to Gen Suchinda's heavily-guarded residence near Suan Run army compound at about 11 pm.

The 12 included Student Federation of Thailand secretary general Parinya Thewanarumitkun, Magasaysay Award winner Prathip Ungsongtham Hata, Khothom Araya of the Campaign for Popular Democracy Committee and Chulalongkon University lecturer Withit Mantraphon, representing a group of academics from 11 universities.

They handed a letter to an aide de camp of the prime minister which urged him to reply by noon today to the demand for his resignation.

Outside parliament, meanwhile, about 30,000 protesters continued the rally which began yesteday morning to coincide with the parliamentary debate on the government's policy statement, which was adjourned to this morning. During the height of the rally, the demonstrators were estimated at between 70,000 and 100,000.

Phalang Tham Party's Udomsin Sisaengnam told waiting reporters the opposition leaders agreed late last night they would try to persuade party leader Maj Gen Chamlong Simuang to end his hunger strike if the five government parties agreed to support constitutional amendments requiring the prime minister to be an elected MP.

The amendments had been submitted and the process should take about three weeks. He did not say whether the amendments would have immediate effect. [passage omitted]

Military Intervention Rumored

BK0705094892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0930 GMT 7 May 92

[Excerpts] Bangkok, May 7 (AFP)—Thailand's Supreme Commander Kaset Rotchananin issued a stern public warning Thursday afternoon against further anti-government demonstrations in the capital.

The warning came as a crowd estimated at more than 25,000 demonstrators demanding the resignation of Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun gathered outside parliament. [passage omitted]

There were unconfirmed reports that troop movements in the city were under way at the same time as the warning was announced.

There have been growing reports throughout the day of possible military intervention following Suchinda's refusal to stand down. [passage omitted]

Rumours that martial law or a state of emergency might be introduced and the military used to quell the anti-government demonstrations quickly began spreading.

Troops in the Thai capital have been placed on full alert and soldiers were seen late Wednesday being deployed in front of Suchinda's house, not far from Parliament House, as well as at the nearby Supreme Command compound.

Tensions have been running high in the city even before Thursday's session got under way. Police blocked off the site of a planned rally outside parliament against Suchinda.

Hundreds of policemen were deployed at the site where Chamlong Simuang, Thailand's most popular political leader, has been fasting since Monday night to force the premier's resignation, preventing people from leaving or moving in.

Public Warned Not To Attend

BK0705085992 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 0815 GMT 7 May 92

[Announcement No. 1 of the Central Command of the Internal Peacekeeping Command read by TV Announcer Ekkaphan Yomchinda—live or recorded]

[Text] In connection with the rally held by people in front of the National Assembly beginning on 4 May, participants at the rally held debates successively attacking the prime minister, the government, and military and state authorities. In addition, they have also tried to persuade more people in Bangkok and from upcountry to join the rally.

In organizing this rally, a group of ill-intentioned persons have habored an ulterior intention to create chaos, which may result in unrest among state authorities and people to the point that the legitimate government will be toppled in the end, thereby causing unestimable losses to the lives and property of a large number of innocent people.

The Internal Peacekeeping Command has, therefore, instructed the Bangkok Peacekeeping Command, as a unit in charge of maintaining peace and order in the Bangkok metropolitan area and adjacent areas, to constantly keep a watch on the situation concerning the rally by these compatriots. It is of the view that the rally by these compatriots should come to an end so as to prevent any losses as mentioned above. The public is requested not to come to attend the rally henceforth. The public is hereby informed of this announcement.

Announced on 7 May 1992.

[Signed] Air Chief Marshal Kaset Rotchananin, military supreme commander.

Warning Repeated

BK0705101992 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1015 GMT 7 May 92

[Announcement No. 1 of the Bangkok Peacekeeping Command]

[Text] In connection with the first announcement issued by the National Peacekeeping Command warning the public not to attend the rallies in front of the National Assembly, as agitated by a group of people having ill intentions toward the government and country, it appears that a large number of people have not yet learned of the said announcement and continue to attend the rallies with ill-intentioned persons who have committed acts to hurt state authorities by hurling objects at them, obstructing traffic, and trying to encroach on the premises of the Royal Court. All these are considered illegal acts.

The Bangkok Peacekeeping Command requests those compatriots attending the rallies to refrain from committing such acts. Please do not fall for the agitation of ill-intentioned persons. Please return to your homes as soon as possible.

The Bangkok Peacekeeping Command will take appropriate measures to deal with the ill-intentioned persons.

This is hereby announced to the public for acknowledgement.

Announced on 7 May 1992

[Signed] General Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, director of the Bangkok Peacekeeping Command

Ralliers Urged To Preserve Calm

BK0705115892 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1047 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] General Itsaraphong Nunphakdi urged the people staging the rally to act rightly for the sake of peace and order in the country.

Gen. Itsaraphong, Army commander in chief, in his capacity as director of the Bangkok Peacekeeping Command, said the Command has implemented a plan called "Phikhat Phairi" [to obliterate the enemy] only in order to maintain peace and order, and not to suppress the ralliers at all.

[Begin recording] [Itsaraphong] We do not take into account what they are going to do; we only take into account how to maintain peace and order. I have received an order from the supreme commander that it is a must to maintain peace and order. Therefore, we are thinking only of this point. However, I would like to remind those who might have been misled by incorrect information to return home and not act inappropriately. At present, the government gives full freedom to people, both inside and outside parliament. The people should therefore act accordingly within a proper framework.

[Unidentified reporter] Were there talks among leaders of the Armed Forces at the Sanam Suapa last night? Were the talks held in preparation to cope with today's situation?

[Itsaraphong] No, nothing there, I can tell you. If there were such talks there I would know. We are only prepared to maintain peace and order in our country; we are not prepared to cope with any situation. We are only prepared concerning what way we can maintain national peace and order so the government can oversee the livelihood of the people and see what difficulties the people are facing. After presenting the policy statement, the government will then perform its tasks. Peacekeeping in Bangkok is the direct duty of the Bangkok Peacekeeping Command, of which I am director. [end recording]

Military Leaders Play Down Rally

BK0705023792 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 7 May 92 p 1

[Text] Military leaders yesterday played down the anti-Suchinda mass rally and hoped the protest would not turn violent.

Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi said the protesters have the right to rally and do whatever they like "so long as they do not set fire to the houses of other people."

He said no force will be used against the protesters.

Gen Itsaraphong said he is not concerned at Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun's being grilled in Parliament and does not find the situation serious.

Asked what will he do if the crowd does not disperse, he said: "I didn't see any mob. They can go anywere but must not set fire to the houses of other people."

First Army Region Commander Lt-Gen Chainarong Nunphakdi said it is the responsibility of the police to deal with untoward incidents.

"If there is no violence, the military will not intervene." However, he expressed concern that the protest might flare up.

"But I hope Thai people will not allow it to happen" he added.

Navy Deputy Commander-in-Chief Admiral Prachum Khruawan urged the protesters to show reasonable judgment and restraint.

He said he does not want to see the protest turn violent. He also asserted that the military will not intervene if there is no violence.

Lt-Gen Yutthaphan Makaramani, commander of the First Army Corps, said the incident will not be overblown.

He also urged hunger striker Chamlong Simuang to be less stubborn.

Asked what will happen if Chamlong dies, he said trouble will flare up.

"But will it be good if there is a riot?"

Lt-Gen Yutthaphan said he opposes the hunger strike.

If the protest continues endlessly, he said he will regard the protesters as outlaws.

He conceded troops of the 11th Infantry Regiment and the Anti-aircraft Division had been placed on alert in their barracks as a precaution to prevent destruction of state property or to "protect our boss."

Commerce Minister Anuwat Watthanaphongsiri, meanwhile, said the protest will not affect the Government.

He said Chamlong had resorted to a hunger strike because he could not speak well in Parliament. The hunger strike will not succeed and this type of protest is outdated.

When asked about the possibility of Parliament being dissolved, he said the Prime Minister has the right to dissolve Parliament.

Deputy Prime Minsiter Michai Ruchuphan said the "trouble" outside Parliament will not help.

"If changes are to be made, they should be made inside Parliament."

King Urged To Intervene in Crisis

BK0705075192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 7 May 92 p 1

[Excerpt] A group of academics petitioned His Majesty the King to advise Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun to dissolve Parliament to end the political deadlock and avert possible bloodshed from the mounting anti-Suchinda demonstration.

The move led by respected Magsaysay Award-winning Dr Prawet Wasi was followed by a demand from pro-democracy groups and students at the rally last night that Gen Suchinda state by noon today if he will resign.

The demand was submitted to an army officer at the heavily guarded residence of the Prime Minister late last night by a group of representatives who included students, academics, lawyers, slum leaders, teachers and labourers.

The officer said the Prime Minister was not at home.

Included in the group were Students' Federation of Thailand leader Parinya Thewanarumitkun, Campaign for Popular Democracy movement chief Khothom Araya and slum activist Prathip Ungsongtham.

The move coincided with an unsuccessful attempt by opposition parties' leaders to bring their counterparts in the coalition to a meeting at Parliament last night for talks to short-circuit the political crisis as more people joined pro-democracy movements yesterday.

The police said the number of protesters swelled to 100,000 people at the height of the demonstration last evening.

Pro-democracy groups urged the rallying crowd which dwindled to 25,000 people before midnight to remain with the hunger strikers led by Phalang Tham Party leader Chamlong Simuang to wait for Gen Suchinda's reply.

A group of 80 lecturers from five private universities, in a separate move, also issued an open letter yesterday demanding that Gen Suchinda resign to end the protest.

The lecturers are from Rangsit, Kroek, Bangkok, Chamber of Commerce and Thurakit Bandit universities.

Some of the opposition leaders have also indirectly approached Premier Suchinda to persuade him to compromise.

The crowd in front of Parliament earlier in the day spilled into the Royal Plaza and occupied the whole area by 6 p.m. forcing the closure of whole sections of the road to traffic.

More than 1,000 anti-riot police fully armed with teargas masks, shields and batons, supported by police dogs and fire engines, were on standby inside Parliament's compound.

Police Department chief Sawat Amonwiwat said about 2,000 policemen including plainclothes officers were also at the protest scene.

Military units in Bangkok have also been placed on alert.

Prime Minister Suchinda immediately after yesterday's parliamentary meeting held an urgent meeting with Army Chief Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, Interior Minister Anan Kalintha and his deputy Pol Lt-Gen Wirot Phao-in as well as First Army chief Lt-Gen Chainarong Nunphakdi.

Details of the meeting were not available at press time. [passage omitted]

Supreme Commander Comments

BK0705110892 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1045 GMT 7 May 92

[Interview with Kaset Rotchaninin, military supreme commander and director of the Internal Peacekeeping Command, by unidentified reporter at the Military Supreme Command in Bangkok—recorded; first paragraph is announcer's introduction]

[Text] In connection with the announcement [of the Internal Peacekeeping Command] aimed at resolving the various prevailing problems, Air Chief Marshal [ACM] Kaset Rotchananin, military supreme commander,

acting in his capacity as director of the Internal Peacekeeping Command, gave an interview on the issuance of the said announcement at the Military Supreme Command at Sanam Suapa this evening.

[Begin recording] [Kaset] They can talk with the National Assembly in a peaceful manner on issues of national administration. The opposition should do its duty as best as it can in accordance with the democratic system. The government has the duty to administer the country so as to bring prosperity, happiness, and well-being to the people with a sound economy. We can help one another carry out work under the democratic parliamentary system. There should be no problem in this.

But some people are now playing a game outside parliament. This is my responsibility—the activities outside parliament—because I am the director of the Internal Peacekeeping Command. In solving this problem, soldiers use only their bare hands. That is, we only talk with them. We do not use force. We are employing gentle measures. If we can understand each other, everything will come to an end.

[Reporter] Marshal, will the petition to His Majesty the King have any effect on the government?

[Kaset] I do not know about that. I do not know who has submitted the petition to His Majesty the King.

[Reporter] Do you think the announcement of the Bangkok Peacekeeping Command will incite participants at the rallies to resort to violence.

[Kaset] Do not use the word "inciting." We are only doing this to maintain peace in Bangkok. Do not use the word "inciting." We will maintain restraint and do everything to maintain peace and order in Bangkok. [end recording]

Papers Voice Concern

BK0605151592

[Editorial Report] Three Thai-language dailies, THAI RAT, SIAM RAT, and MATICHON, on 6 May carry comments and editorials about the ongoing opposition rallies and hunger strike to force Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun and his government to resign.

THAI RAT's 800-word editorial on page 3, entitled: "Dissolve Parliament, or Seize Power," says that domestic politics has come to a deadend. The government is being driven into a corner by protesters outside the parliament. The situation could worsen when parliament opens for debate on the government policy statement by the opposition parties. A general evaluation shows there is no way the government would yield to the pressure and resign and it has its own principles to justify its assumption of power.

If the opposition continues with the crowd growing larger, the government may be forced to choose either to dissolve parliament or to stage a coup. "It is more likely the government would resort to seizing power despite the fact that this would elicit stronger opposition and even violent resistance—what the protesters are aiming for now," the paper warns. It continues: "We are appealing to all parties to adhere to moderation because if we take a wrong step it would lead to a power seizure. That means we will retrogress another dozen years before we can get democracy back."

SIAM RAT's 700-word editorial on page 3, entitled "Democracy Outside the Parliament," expresses concern as the crowds of protestors grow bigger and leader of the Phalang Tham Party Chamlong Simuang has joined the hunger strike. It says, "It is unlikely that Prime Minister Suchinda would step down because he also believes that he is legitimate as he was chosen by a prliamentary majority made up of five political parties."

The key issue for the opposition in staging the present rallies is that General Suchinda's leadership had been planned by the military through the drafting of the constitution, the appointment of senators, and formation of a political party to back a non-elected prime minister. If Gen. Suchinda really upholds democratic principles, or even claims he has the support of a majority in the parliament, he must also not forget that his own National Peace-Keeping Council clique toppled the Chatchai government which controlled a majority of votes in parliament. "We therefore support the reasons for the opposition groups' battle for an elected prime minister. They must not give up their fight, because once they accept an outsider or a neutral person as prime minister, it will be difficult for Thailand to free itself from dictatorship," the paper says.

MATICHON's 1,000-word editorial on page 8, entitled "Don't Misjudge the Time," says the political tension has been raised to a new level when Phalang Tham Party Leader Chamlong Simuang joined the hunger strike to protest the leadership of Prime Minister Suchinda. Reviewing the situation leading up to this point, the editorial says those who should be blamed for all the present confusion are those who drafted the constitution. They just ignored the people's manifested preference to have an elected member of parliament as prime minister. Although one could claim that the protestors against a non-elected prime minister in Bangkok are only a minority, one must not forget that "Bangkok people are the educated class with a sound economic background. They are the voices of the intellectuals, the voices of the mass leaders. This group of people initiated the overthrow of the dictatorial government in 1973." The editorial concludes that Suchinda must choose a political approach that would solve the problem—he must listen to the voice of the people. "He must accept standing in an election. He must propose a motion to amend the constitution to make it democratic. The constitution must say that the prime minister must be an elected member of parliament."

MATICHON's page-2 column by "Special Correspondent" entitled: "Dissolving Parliament; Resigning," says Chamlong's decision will accelerate a solution to the confrontation, whether it be desirable or otherwise. If the previous situation had continued, only Thailand and the Thai people would have suffered from the political deadlock.

The columnist recalls: "Gen. Suchinda made it clear from the beginning that he himself would try to solve all problems with fortitude, and that the Armed Forces should not bother with him. Military commanders therefore should leave the prime minister to settle the crisis himself." Major General Chamlong's decision has opened up two options for the prime minister: to resign from the post of prime minister, or to dissolve parliament. It is possible for him to dissolve parliament because an opposition leader who is a member of parliament is playing a game outside parliament. "Whether Gen. Suchinda would take the opportunity to dissolve the parliament during the 6 May debate session or whether he would prefer to wait and see for a few more days, the opportunity is already there for him," the columnist suggests.

Reportage on 7 May Parliament Session

Suchinda Addresses Closing

BK0705054092 Bangkok Thai Color Television Channel 9 in Thai 0358 GMT 7 May 92

[Speech by Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun at the closing of the joint session of the National Assembly on 7 May 1992—live]

[Text] Honorable Mr. President and members of the National Assembly:

As head of the government, I would like to thank you, Mr. President and all members of the National Assembly, for expressing interest in the government's policy and for commenting on and giving suggestions to the government, which are useful for the administration of the country by this cabinet. I would like to reassure you that the government intends to implement this policy and bring it to fruition to the extent that time and the budget permit. In particular, the government will stress and give urgency to the distributiion of wealth and to rural development with a view to eliminating the poverty affecting the rural people and to bringing happiness and prosperity to the people in the entire country on the basis of equality. By doing this, we pledge to adhere to the principles of sincerity and honesty in safeguarding the public interest.

As for those comments and suggestions made by members of the National assembly which are useful and are applicable, the government would like to accept them with thanks and, with some modification, implement them. I hope that in implementing its policy, the government will receive cooperation and support from the honorable members of the National Assembly.

In connection with the much-debated issue of my acceptance of the premiership, I would like to give you my reasons, through Mr. President:

Firstly, the Constitution does not stipulate that the prime minister must be a member of the House of Representatives. Secondly, I used to serve in the government as a close colleague of a person who has now become a politician. I know very well that that person has a close relationship with a group of persons who have called themselves the Revolutionary Council or have been given the name of the Council of Jokes by the public. I repeatedly advised him to dissociate himself from that group of persons. I am certain that the so-called democratic system adhered to by that person is to assume power in the democratic system through a presidium council. At present, this group of persons..[heckling by some members of the House of Representatives is heard; House Speaker interjects] Please sit down, no protest is accepted because no names of any persons have been mentioned. Please sit down. When you talked about the prime minister, I always allowed you to do so. Please sit down.

[Suchinda resumes] ...The group which is currently rallying outside the parliament in order to create confusion and to place Thailand under the rule of a presidium council is composed of those persons. Thirdly, I have been asked by a large number of Buddhist followers to assume the premiership in order to protect and preserve Buddhism which has been threatened by a group of persons who have established a new religious sect. [more heckling by some members of the House of Representatives is heard; House Speaker interjects]

Please keep order. Please be fair. When you talked about the prime minister, everyone was quiet. Please maintain order. Please continue, Mr Prime Minister.

[Suchinda resumes] ... Fourthly, many members of the House of Representatives have already informed Mr. President that in the latest election it appeared that more money has been dumped. As a neutral person assuming the premiership I think that I am in the best possition to control and get rid of any corrupt practices should they occur.

Thank you. [applause, interspersed with heckling]

[House Speaker] The atmosphere prevailing in the house today was unprecedented. I gave always opportunities to you, members of the National Assembly, to speak. Today is the second day of the house session. According to House Session Regulation Item No. 55, I am of the view that we have debated many things already. I would like to ask this session whether we should adjourn this meeting or not. [Heckling is heard] Those who agree that the session should be adjourned, please raise your hands. [More heckling is heard]. Please lower your hands. Those who are of the view that the session should be continued, please raise your hands. [More shouting and heckling].

I declare the session adjourned.

Opposition Reaches Mass Audience

BK0705020592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 7 May 92 p 1

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun bore the brunt of a vicious onslaught on his government by members of the Opposition who had earlier boycotted the delivery of his policy statement at Parliament yesterday.

Opposition MPs continued to question the legitimacy of Suchinda's rise to power and his sincerity, while taking turns to deliver stinging rebukes at the policy statement, which one described as "plagiarism".

Democrat leader Chuan Likphai, in his characteristically soft but authoritative voice, made Suchinda fidget in his seat by categorizing the "shortcomings" of the prime minister.

Live TV and radio broadcasting of the parliamentary debate gave Chuan and other Opposition leaders a rare opportunity to reach the large audience tuning into the electronic media, which has been effectively muzzled in covering anti-government activities. [passage omitted]

Debate Closes Early

BK0705073292 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] Parliament President Ukrit Mongkhonnawin spoke to reporters shortly before noon today at the National Assembly about the closing of today's parliamentary session at 1105.

He said that on both days of the debate on the government's policy statement, he had allowed members to speak on the policy statement in the same manner as on several previous occasions when he had been speaker of the house. He said that the amount of time given for this debate was about the same as before.

During the debate, he said, there were explanations, presentations of views, and criticism of other persons, especially and frequently of the prime minister. He thanked the prime minister for listening to those remarks with patience.

After seeing that today's debate, which also criticized some persons, had proceeded for a suitable length of time, he asked Prime Minister General Suchinda Khraprayun to speak.

During the prime minister's speech, there was a reaction from certain members of parliament. As the president of the parliament, he felt that since the government had already completed its policy statement and furthur debate could affect some individuals, he felt that the debate should be adjourned. He said that most of the members of Parliament agreed.

Therefore, the joint parliamentary session on the government policy statement has ended and the Government will now be able to administer the country in accordance with the policy stated. The closing of the meeting would therefore produce positive results rather than negative, because further debate might have created further conflict, he said.

Chamlong's Physical Condition in Rapid Decline

BK0705024192 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 7 May 92 p 1

[Excerpt] The physical condition of Chamlong Simuang is quickly deteriorating because the vegetarian Phalang Tham Party leader has little fat on his body from which to draw energy. Phalang Tham MP Udomsin Sisaengnam said yesterday.

Maj-Gen Chamlong's wife, Sirilak, last night joined her husband in the hunger strike.

Dr Udomsin, a physician, told reporters at Parliament that Maj-Gen Chamlong's condition has deteriorated faster than expected because of the heat and lack of sleep.

The Phalang Tham leader is still refusing a physical examination.

The doctor said that although Maj-Gen Chamlong is not speaking, just listening, the heat, the use of his mind, writing letters, will require his body to burn up at least 2,000 calories a day.

On Monday night, the first day of his fast, Maj-Gen Chamlong's body would have used up all the energy from his blood. Since the body is not getting any food it would have to draw on body fat for energy. But the vegetarian politician has little fat and the body will begain to digest muscle to provide him energy.

This will cause the acid in his blood to be very high and in turn cause nausea, a heaviness in the head, rapid heart beat and low blood pressure.

By the fourth and fifth day of the fast the body will begin to lack potassium and calcium and the muscles will feel very weak and paralysis will set in, Dr Udomsin said.

"I think these conditions will start to appear tomorrow (today). But Maj-Gen Chamlong will probably try to suppress it," Dr Udomsin said.

He said that meditation which the Phalang Tham leader practises, will help to lessen the workload of his heart and lungs. However, he is worried that the brain will be affected first.

"How well Maj-Gen Chamlong can cope will depend on how strong his body is. Now it's beginning to get very drained. He has to lean on a pillow instead of sitting up straight," Dr Udomsin said. [passage omitted]

Peacekeeping Command Denies Abduction of Chamlong

BK0705105492 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1040 GMT 7 May 92

[Text] In connection with rumors unleashed by ill-intentioned persons that Palang Dharma Party leader Major General Chamlong Simuang has been abducted, the Bangkok Peacekeeping Command would like to point out that the news report is totally untrue. Right now Major General Chamlong Simuang is still continuing a hunger strike in front of the National Assembly Building.

Vietnam

Le Mai Wants Complete Lifting of U.S. Embargo

BK0605162392 Hanoi VNA in English 1536 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 6—At a recent meeting here with 12 businessmen from the American Commercial Chamber in Hong Kong, Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai welcomed the U.S. decision to ease the trade embargo but what the Vietnamese people want is a complete lift of the embargo.

Le Mai reaffirmed the Vietnamese Government's preparedness to move toward normalization on the basis of respect for each other's independence and sovereignty, equality, mutual benefit and without prerequisite.

Asked about the recent visit to Vietnam by the U.S. Senate Select Committee on MIA/POW issues led by its chairman Senator John Kerry, Le Mai said that it was fruitful, demonstrating the two sides' cooperation in solving humanitarian issues, particularly the MIA issue.

On the U.S. requests to move freely to investigate reports on sighting of live Americans in Vietnam, Mr. Le Mai reaffirmed that no American has been detained or stranded in Vietnam since the end of the war. But, he said, with an understanding of the U.S. need, Vietnam has allowed the U.S. side to make short notice visits to some places, on the basis of respect for Vietnam these places could not be military bases or national security establishments of Vietnam.

On the U.S. State Department's April 29, 1992 statement of lifting the ban on US non-governmental organizations' aid to Vietnam, and allowing private companies and organizations to export essential goods to Vietnam, Le Mai said : This is a positive step, but what the Vietnamese and the Americans and the world public opinion demand is that the U.S. Government completely lift the ban against Vietnam because it is an out-dated policy, contrary to the two peoples' interest and the trend of the world.

Scientific Cooperation With Russia, Ukraine

BK0405062592 Hanoi VNA in English 0615 GMT 4 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 4—A delegation of the Vietnam Institute of Sciences led by Prof. Nguyen Van Dao paid a working visit to Russia and Ukraine from April 16-29 to restore and develop scientific and technical cooperation.

Leaders of the Russian Academy of Sciences and the Ukrainian state expressed their admiration at the achievements recorded by the Vietnamese people in the process of renovation and the development of scientific research in the condition of a market economy.

During their meetings, the parties reaffirmed the commitments made so far between the Russian Academy of Sciences, Ukraine, and the Vietnam Institute of Sciences.

Russia and Ukraine will continue to help Vietnam in training scientists in essential fields, and are ready to cooperate and exchange information with Vietnamese scientists, and exchange scientfic research equipment with Vietnam.

The parties also agreed on new measures and forms for scientific cooperation and the exchange of research equipment.

Two Russian Turbines for Hoa Binh Power Plant

BK3004153592 Hanoi VNA in English 1447 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 30—Vietnam and Russia have agreed to install the last two turbines (the 7th and 8th) of the Hoa Binh Hydro-Electric Power Plant in Vietnam.

Under an agreement reached here today by S.M. Bokov, president of Technopromexport of Russia, and Le Nhan Vinh, director of the Electricity Company 1 under the Ministry of Energy, Vietnam will buy these two turbines from Russia.

Payment will be made in cash (35 percent) and in kind (65 percent). For its part, Russia will send experts to Vietnam to direct the installation, adjustment and operation of these units which are expected to operate in 1993 to help the plant achieve its originally designed capacity of 1.92 million kw.

Agricultural Cooperation With France Enhanced

BK0305073092 Hanoi VNA in English 0242 GMT 3 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 3—The cooperation in agriculture between Vietnam and France dating back to 1989 will be enhanced through a new programme of French investment, said Mr Dominique Babin, head of the International Department of the French Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

This will take place in the form of credits, supply of fertilisers and antiseptics and other agriculture-related services such as food processing and commercialization of farm produce.

Several round-table conferences have been held in France for prospective investors in Vietnam where they exchanged views on such projects as processing technology, packaging, post-harvest losses, transportation, processing of fruits, vegetables, meat, seafoods, etc.

A joint France-Vietnamese programme on rice, coffee and rubber growing, processing and export and on transportation of live shrimps and crabs from Tan Son Nhat airport in Ho Chi Minh City to Orly airport in Paris is being discussed.

France has decided to supply Vietnam with mechanized means for the planting of 200,000 ha more of rubber as well as frozen semen of oxen and equipment for milk pasteurisation.

France Urges More Cooperation

BK0505160592 Hanoi VNA in English 1434 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 5—A symposium on French telecommunications was opened here this morning.

The symposium, the first of its kind, was jointly sponsored by the French Technical, Industrial and Economic Cooperation Agency, the Trade Commission at the French Embassy in Vietnam, the French Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, the French Telecommunications Agency and the French telecommunications industry.

Among those present at the symposium were Claude Blanchemaison, French ambassador to Vietnam, and Dang Van Than, general director of the Vietnam Post and Telecommunications Corporation.

The symposium discussed opportunities for further cooperation in telecommunications between the two countries.

DPRK Official Receives Outgoing SRV Envoy

BK0505161292 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Recently, Comrade Yi Chong-ok, Politburo member of the Korean Workers Party Central Committee and vice president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea [DPRK], received Comrade Nguyen Van Trong, our country's ambassador, who called on the Korean leader to bid him farewell upon the conclusion of his term of duty in the DPRK.

Vice President Yi Chong-ok said: The party, government, and people of Korea wish to strenghthen the relations of friendship and cooperation with the party, government, and people of Vietnam.

Ambassador Nguyen Van Trong affirmed the unswerving stand of our party, government, and people who always support the cause of national unification of the Korean people.

On this occasion, Ambassador Nguyen Van Trong was also received by Comrade Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, and many other leaders.

Vo Van Kiet Receives Cuban Foreign Minister

BK0605165192 Hanoi VNA in English 1532 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 6—Vo Van Kiet, Political Bureau member of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, chairman of the Council of Ministers, this afternoon received Insidoro Malmierca Peoli, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party and Foreign Minister of Cuba, now on an official visit to Vietnam.

Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and Cuban Ambassadress to Vietnam Tania Maceira were present at the reception.

Minister I. Malmierca expressed his joy at visiting Vietnam again, and highly valued the achievements in all fields record recently [as received] by the Vietnamese people. He informed Chairman Vo Van Kiet of the present situation in Cuba, and the Cuban party, state and people's determination to overcome all trials and continue their socialist construction.

The Cuban minister expressed his satisfaction at the relations of solidarity, friendship and cooperation between the two parties, governments and peoples, and reaffirmed Cuba's determination to further consolidate and develop that relationship.

Chairman Vo Van Kiet informed Minister Isidoro Malmierca of the initial results recorded by the Vietnamese people in the process of renovation, and their present and coming tasks in building and defending socialist Vietnam.

Chairman Vo Van Kiet expressed his profound sympathy with Cuba over its present difficulties, spoke highly of the achievements recorded by the Cuban People in national construction and defence. He also expressed his belief that the fraternal Cuban people under the leadership of President Fidel Castro will overcome the temporary difficulties and trials, successfully implementing the tasks worked out by the fourth congress of the Communist Party of Cuba and obtaining new achievements in their revolutionary cause.

Chairman Vo Van Kiet voiced the Vietnamese people's determination to unite with the Cuban people and to support and help each other in successfully building socialism in each country.

The same day, Minister Nguyen Manh Cam held talks with his Cuban counterpart on the relations between the two countries and on regional and international issues of common concern.

Deputy Foreign Minister Le Mai and Cuban Ambassadress Tania Maceira were present at the talks.

Setback Predicted in Cambodian Peace Process

BK0505154892 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 5 May 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] The peace agreement on Cambodia has been implemented very slowly. An AFP correspondent in Phnom Penh on Monday, 4 May, warned that the process of the implementation of this accord may be delayed. What are the causes of this situation, here is our comment on this issue:

The United Nations has taken action for peace in Cambodia but at a very slow speed and [words indistinct] not in a smooth sailing. It is even said that the supervision of the cease-fire in Cambodia, demobilization, and compromise of forces of all Cambodian factions may not be carried out.

General John Sanderson, one of the commanders of UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC] said the cause of this situation is the obstacle caused by the Khmer Rouge to UNTAC activities. He said: The Khmer Rouge are the worst violators of the Paris agreement on Cambodia. Colonel Allen Beaver from New Zealand, head of the UNTAC mine deactivation program in Cambodia, made known that while other Cambodian factions are cooperating with UN peacekeeping forces in marking minefields on Cambodian territory, the Khmer Rouge refused to cooperate.

The commander of the UN Peace Keeper in Cambodia Mr. Akashi said on Monday, 4 May, that he was not satisfied with the current cooperation of the Khmer Rouge. He held that it is the Khmer Rouge's lack of goodwill for peace that obstructs the process of peace in Cambodia.

Obviously, if the Khmer Rouge continues to cause trouble to UNTAC activities, AFP's warning for the delay of the peace process in Cambodia may become a reality.

TV Satellite Relay Stations Built on Spratlys

BK0605132192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] Following the installation of a via-satellite color television relay station to help troops stationed on the Truong Sa [Spratly] archipelago monitor the developments of the Seventh National Party Congress, the Political General Department, in coordination with the Political and the Survey Departments of the Navy and the National Defense Ministry's Institute of Military Technology, has continued to install equipment for three via-satellite color television relay stations. This is to serve troops on the three major northern islands of the Truong Sa Island district, namely Sinh Ton, Song Tu Tay, and Nam Yet. Thus, the Truong Sa Island district now contains four color television relay stations servicing troops guarding this archipelago of the fatherland.

National Conference on Upcoming Elections

BK0605062392 Hanoi VNA in English 0615 GMT 6 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 6—A two-day national conference in preparation for the forthcoming general elections to the Ninth National Assembly is being held in Hanoi under the chairmanship of Le Quang Dao, vice-president of the State Council and vice-chairman of the Electoral Council. Attending the conference are members of the Electoral Council, representatives of the Council of Ministers, the Central Committee of the Vietnam Fatherland Front and offices concerned and the heads of organizational committees of the administration in all provinces and cities throughout the country.

The conference pointed to the specially important significance of the coming general elections which will determine the quality of the new national assembly as the really highest representative of the people and the highest organ of state power in Vietnam.

The participants discussed preparatory steps for the elections including the consultations on the list of candidates, issues relating to the organizations of the elections and information and publicity work.

They reached consensus that the forthcoming elections must be an occasion to raise the people's awareness about the National Assembly as well as about the citizens' rights and duties in order to enhance the sense of responsibility of each citizen towards the task of national construction and defence. This will also be an occasion to further democratic life and cultivate the sense of law observance.

The elections are scheduled for July 19.

Council Issues Decision on Price Control

BK0405081792 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 28 Apr 92

[Text] On 27 April 1992, the Council of Ministers issued Decision 137 on price control. According to this decision, most goods and services are to be priced by their producers. The government will apply economic measures to stabilize market prices of food, gold, and foreign currency exchange rates. It will also set standard or maximum prices of national resources, government real estate for rental or sale, and important commodities for living and production such as: electricity, fuel, urea, cement, postal rates, telegrams, and local telephone calls.

The government will control price-forming factors of goods on the government price stabilization list. Private enterprises which provide government-controlled-price goods and services must display their prices clearly.

The decision empowers the chairman of the State Pricing Commission to conduct pilot programs of registering prices of some important commodities; coordinate with business enterprises to set up, inspect, and control prices; and help the public to implement this decision.

Vo Tran Chi Attends HCMC War Veterans Congress

BK0505142392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] Yesterday morning, 29 April, the first congress of delegates of the Vietnam War Veterans Association of Ho Chi Minh City was held at the Unification Palace—the place where our people's sacred war of resistance against America for national salvation concluded triumphantly 17 years ago.

Attending were Comrade Vo Tran Chi, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of the Ho Chi Minh City Party Committee; Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, vice chairman of the Council of State and chairman of the Vietnam Fatherland Front [VFF] Central Committee; General Vo Nguyen Giap; and Senior Lieutenant General Song Hao, interim president of the Vietnam War Veterans Association.

Senior Lieutenant General Tran Van Tra, president of the provisional executive committee of the city war veterans association, read a report on the organizational structure and activities of the association since it was founded, as well as on its orientations and tasks for the next term of office. The report said:

The contingent of war veterans residing in Ho Chi Minh City constitute a concise picture of the People's Armed Forces made up of all categories of troops and members of all military branches from many generations, who have come from all parts of the country to assemble in the city named after esteemed Uncle Ho.

In the past as well as at present, war veterans in Ho Chi Minh City have been constantly reminded to illustrate the nature and tradition of Uncle Ho's soldiers. Despite numerous difficulties and privations in their daily life and declining health due to illness, old age, and invalidity, war veterans in the city never think that they have already fulfilled their duties and hope that, together with the entire party, people, and Army, they can continue to contribute part of their energy and intellect in the remaining years to safeguarding the revolutionary gains and the party, as well as to realize their long-cherished aspirations.

In the days ahead, the Ho Chi Minh City War Veterans Association will coordinate actively with all mass organizations subordinate to the VFF to successfully implement the resolution of the fifth city party organization congress and the party Central Committee's seventh plenum resolution.

The Congress of Ho Chi Minh City War Veterans heard a message of greetings from Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, adviser to the party Central Committee. It also heard speeches by Comrade Vo Tran Chi, Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, Senior Lieutenant General Song Hao, and General Vo Nguyen Giap, in which they extended greetings to the congress and provided guidance for the activities of the city war veterans in the days ahead.

In a straightforward and democratic spirit, the congress elected 29 comrades to the Executive Committee of the city war veterans association and a delegation to the forthcoming congress of Vietnamese war veterans.

Kiet Addresses Science, Technical Policy Meeting

BK0505123592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Text] The National Council for Scientific and Technical Policies met recently to discuss plans for rearranging all scientific agencies and colleges in our country with the aim of ensuring definite investment, combining research work with training activities, and renovating the organizational and cadre-related systems in a way that suits the new economic mechanism.

Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet and Council of Ministers Vice Chairman Nguyen Khanh were present throughout the period of work of the National Council for Scientific and Technical Policies.

Speaking at the meeting, Chairman Vo Van Kiet expounded many concrete views on the question of arranging and reorganizing the scientific and technical, and educational and training systems to ensure that they can work effectively to meet the needs arising from the process of renovation in our country.

Members of the National Council for Scientific and Technical Policies contributed many views to these plans. They all agreed unanimously that it is necessary to rearrange the network of research and training organs in order to increase the efficiency of the scientific and technical cadres and raise the research and training standards among all colleges in our country.

HCM City Holds Meeting To Mark Liberation Day

BK0305132592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 30 Apr 92

[Report on 30 April Ho Chi Chi Minh City meeting to mark the 17th anniversary of the liberation of South Vietnan, 30 April; and International Labor Day, 1 May—portions recorded]

[Summary] A meeting was held this morning, 30 April, by the Ho Chi Minh City Party Committee, People's Committee, People's Council, and Vietnam Fatherland Front Committee to commemorate the 17th anniversary of the liberation of South Vietnam on 30 April, and International Labor Day, 1 May.

"Attending were Comrade Vo Tran Chi, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and secretary of the Ho Chi Minh City Party Committee; Nguyen Vinh Nghiep, chairman of the City People's Committee; Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, vice chairman of the Council of State and chairman of the Vietnam Fatherland Front Central Committee; Senior General Vo Nguyen Giap; and many other leading comrades of the City Party Committee."

On behalf of the party committee and people of the city, Comrade Le Phuoc Binh, chairman of the City People's Council, delivered a speech underscoring our people's tradition of fighting for national defense and construction. He said:

[Begin Le Phuoc Binh recording] "The resounding victory of 30 April 1975 was a victory of the integration of our national with epochal strength."

It was also a victory of our people's war policy, which called for the development of our overall advantages and the exploitation of the enemy's weaknesses. The city's liberation ushered in a new era, one in which Vietnam regained its total independence with the entire country entering into a transition phase toward socialism.

"Following the liberation 17 years ago, our city successfully built the groundwork for a new system ruled by the people. Together with people nationwide, the city has overcome the severe consequences of war, gradually carried out economic and cultural construction and development, and actively contributed to preserving national sovereignty and security and fulfilling international obligations."

He went on: The city's activities in 1992 and the ensuing years will consist of promptly reorganizing production and business, promoting joint ventures and economic integration, rectifying financial management, practicing thrift, investing in infrastructure projects, stepping up external economic activities, meeting requirements for raw materials and machine spare parts, caring for the people's well-being, and reducing the unemployment rate.

"Politically, the party organization and the people of our city should strive to firmly maintain political stability to faciliate our renovation. It is most important that we should exercise socialist democratization, uphold the party's leading role, renovate leadership methods and state management mechanism, and bring to full play the roles of people-elected organs, the Fatherland Front, and other mass organizations." [end recording]

Speaking at the meeting, Senior Lieutenant General Tran Van Tra recalled our people's tradition of staunch struggle. He expressed the hope that the younger generation would continue to uphold the heroic tradition of their forefathers. He said:

[Begin Tran Van Tra recording] The commemoration of the glorious 30 April anniversary allows us to recall our victorious struggle against the enemy for independence and freedom. The Vietnamese people have constantly struggled for survival in a self-reliant fashion. Despite the unfavorable external situation, we will, with a spirit of independence and sovereignty, continue to progress towards our goal. [end recording]

On behalf of the younger generation of the city, Comrade Le Van Nuoi, secretary of the Ho Chi Minh City Youth Union, pledged to strive to fulfill the mandate entrusted to the city's youths. He said:

[Begin Le Van Nuoi recording] Today's youths were born when the city had just been liberated. Now, they are turning 17 and are helping to build a prosperous country and a beautiful city.

On the city's commemoration of the 17th anniversary of its liberation, the city's youths pledge to continue to pursue the socialist path and to boldly struggle against corruption and negativism in its efforts to build the city. [end recording]

"The commemoration of the 17th anniversary of the liberation of the south ended joyfully, permeated with the overwhelming confidence in the success of the country's renovation."

Army Paper Marks Liberation

BK3004105592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2330 GMT 29 Apr 92

[30 April QUAN DOI NHAN DAN Editorial: "Develop the 30 April Spirit, Firmly Safeguard National Independence, and Build the Country Into a Rich and Powerful Nation"]

[Text] 30 April 1975 marks the complete victory of our people's anti-U.S. national liberation struggle. This is one of the greatest events in the history of the Vietnamese people's struggle to defend the nation. It is a source of pride and a priceless heritage for Vietnamese of different generations. The 30 April Victory is also an important milestone marking the end of the war of aggression waged by the imperialist forces against our country and creating a new, very bright prospect for the entire nation to advance toward socialism and make Uncle Ho's cherished dream of turning Vietnam into a peaceful, unified, independent, democratic, prosperous, and powerful country come true.

Seventeen years following the liberation, the cause of national defense and national construction patterned after the socialist path of our Armed Forces and people nationwide have scored important achievements. Particularly, the on-going renovation undertaking has brought about encouraging results.

Faced with the complicated, unfavorable developments of the international situation and the great difficulties and challenges at home, we have realized even more clearly the values of independence and freedom. The victory of the anti-U.S. national liberation struggle marks the initial success of the socialist path chosen by Uncle Ho and our party and people. For this glorious victory to materialize, our people have undergone several decades of harsh fighting and tremendous sacrifice. Tens of thousands of outstanding sons and daughters of the nation have lost their lives in the line of duty. Countless families have endured losses and suffering because of the deaths of their loved ones. Countless comrades have become crippled or sick while fighting on the various battlefronts. Countless cities, villages, schools, hospitals, and plants have been destroyed. Meanwhile, the war has continued to exert a very serious impact on our people.

Only when we are fully aware of those great sacrifices and losses can we clearly realize the values of our people's revolutionary gains. Therefore, we, Vietnamese, must not only remember forever the great meritorious services that our fathers and forefathers have rendered to the struggle for national independence and freedom but must also help defend those priceless revolutionary gains. Only by restoring independence and freedom and firmly maintaining national independence can we have conditions for developing the economy, building the nation along the socialist path, and making the people rich and the country powerful.

This year, the commemoration of the 30 April Victory comes as our people are resolutely accelerating the renovation undertaking. It is very important for everyone to review the revolutionary struggle of days gone by and correctly assess past achievements. Imbued with the truth that nothing is more valuable than independence and freedom and by holding high the banner of national independence and socialism as well as by bringing into play their creativity and spirit of independence and self-sufficiency and self-reliance, our compatriots and combatants nationwide have scored a glorious victory, successfully ending the national liberation struggle with the historical Ho Chi Minh Campaign.

More than ever before, the present situation requires our entire party, people, and Armed Forces to understand and take pride in the success of the national liberation struggle. This serves as a basis for our belief in the future of our nation and makes us persist on the path that Uncle Ho and our party and people had chosen at the very beginning of the revolutionary struggle in our country.

The renovation undertaking initiated by the seventh party congress has made its presence felt in people's lives. The initial results of the renovation have become a great source of encouragement for our entire party, people, and armed forces. At present, the revolutionary undertaking in our country has very bright prospects as well as greater difficulties and challenges. Reactionary and hostile forces are plotting to get rid of socialism and to deprive our people of their revolutionary gains. This situation requires our entire people to heighten vigilance, develop their traditions of patriotism and stalwartness in the national liberation struggle, and achieve all-people solidarity under the party's leadership. These factors will create the strength we need to defeat all enemies and bring the renovation to a complete victory.

Our Army plays a key role in the people's war to liberate the nation and defend the fatherland. It takes great pride in the glorious traditions that Uncle Ho and our party and people have bestowed on it. At present, as far as the task of building and defending the socialist Vietnamese fatherland is concerned, our Army as a whole has overcome new difficulties and challenges. Whatever circumstances it may face, our army has always firmly believed in the party leadership as well as in our people's revolutionary cause. It has made constant efforts to improve its aggregate strength and outstandingly fulfill all tasks assigned by the party and people, thus showing itself worthy of the people's trust and love and deserving to be called a trustworthy and dependable instrument to firmly defend national independence, the revolutionary gains, the socialist regime, and our people's peaceful national construction.

Doan Khue Meets War Veterans Association Group

BK3004115992 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 22 Apr 92

[Text] On 22 April Comrade Senior Lieutenant General Song Hao, party and youth union organization secretary and chairman of the Vietnam War Veterans Association, and Comrade Senior Lieutenant General Bui Phung and Comrade Major General Huynh Dac Hung, members of the Standing Body of the association Executive Committee, paid a working visit to the Ministry of National Defense. They were cordially received by General Doan Khue; member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and deputy secretary of the party Central Committee Military Commission and minister of national defense; Senior Lieutenant General Tran Van Quang, deputy minister of national defense; and Lieutenant General Le Hai, deputy director of the General Political Department.

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the Vietnam War Veterans Association, Comrades Song Hao and Huynh Dac Hung briefed the Ministry of National Defense on the recent activities of the association. They also raised a number of questions on the relations between the war veterans association and the Army in the development of the all-people national defense system and Army Rear Service.

Comrade Doan Khue thanked the executive committee of the Vietnam War Veterans Association for the visit. He also exchanged views with Comrades Song Hao and Huynh Dac Hung on many vital issues of importance to the development of the Army and association. Comrade Doan Khue expressed the belief that the association would continue to make itself firm and strong, especially

at the grass-roots level, so that it could truly serve as a reliable core force of the party organizations, administrations, and people in various localities.

Record Mekong Delta Rice Harvest Noted

BK0505161392 Hanoi VNA in English 1457 GMT 5 May 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 5—By April 25, 1992 farmers in the south had reaped 1,132,180 ha [hectares] of winter-spring rice, accounting for 95.23 percent of the area under this crop.

Around 911,000 ha of this area are in the Mekong Delta, which is expected to obtain an all-time high output of 4.6 million tonnes, an increase of 700,000 tonnes over the same crop last year. Reaping is in alongside sowing for the next crop. About 483,350 ha have been planted with summer-autumn rice, including 386,250 ha in the Mekong Delta.

But not all is well; farmers in the central province will not be able to complete sowing on time because of a prolonged drought.

In the north, blast is affecting 270,000 ha, 2.7 times the area affected by the same disease last year. Sheath blight and white-backed plant hoppers are threatening over 60,000 other hectares. In some areas up to 1,000-1,500 hoppers can be found on a square metre.